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## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

## Clashes greet Nobel award

The Nobel Peace Prize was presented to Prime Minister Begin of Israel and President Sadat of Egypt, represented by an aide, in a 19th century Oslo castle ringed by police marksmen.

Ten pro-Palestine demonstrators, spattered with red paint representing blood, chained themselves to the railing outside but were arrested just before Mr. Begin arrived by helicopter.

People protesting at the awards later clashed with police and one person was taken to hospital. Page 2

## Journalists seek printers' help

Leaders of 9,000 provincial journalists on strike for more pay, are to ask print union general secretaries to instruct their members not to cross picket lines.

The National Union of Journalists claims increasing numbers of provincial journalists are prepared to go beyond the 9 per cent offered by the Newspaper Society. Page 6

## Britain trounced

Britain's first appearance in the Davis Cup tennis final for 41 years ended in defeat when John McEnroe and Brian Gottfried beat Buster Mottram and John Lloyd in the closing singles matches to give the U.S. a 4-1 win. Page 12

## Kennedy warning

Senator Edward Kennedy has warned President Carter that if economic programmes are too costly, and market programmes are too risky, the Democratic Party support could not be taken for granted.

Kennedy's speech was received at the party's end-term convention in Memphis. Page 2

## Bakers vote

The result of bakers' union branch ballots over an improved offer amounting to just over 14 per cent should be known today.

The strike began when a 26 per cent offer was rejected by an offer of 11 per cent. Page 6

## Meir funeral

Golda Meir, former Israeli Prime Minister who died on Friday, will be buried tomorrow at the mountain-side cemetery reserved for the nation's leaders.

## Rocket raid

Rhodesia's defence headquarters said that guerrillas attacked a sports club inside the Salisbury city limits using rockets and small arms. The club, in a suburban township, is used by blacks.

## Thorpe hearing

The Jeremy Thorpe case committal hearing resumed at Minehead today when defence lawyers will make their submissions. The magistrates will decide later today or tomorrow whether all or any of the four defendants should be sent for trial, charged with conspiracy to murder Norman Scott.

## Going Dutch

The price of some farmland in East Anglia has risen by 50 per cent because it is being bought up by Dutch people taking advantage of favourable exchange rates.

## Briefly

Twenty airmen escaped when an avalanche swept them away in the Bernese Oberland.

Compulsory military service is to be introduced in Saudi Arabia.

Soviet dissidents marked Human Rights day with a silent demonstration in Moscow.

Government will announce its long-term strategy for south-east England today.

Premium Bond 550,000 winner lives in Oxfordshire. No: 15VL 51455.

### BUSINESS

## Plan to stem skill shortage

MANPOWER Services Commission is to launch an experimental scheme to try to stem the growing shortages of skilled workers in five key industries—domestic electrical appliances, construction equipment, pumps and valves, diesel engines and food and drink machinery.

The scheme, which has full Government backing, would add a £500 lump sum payment to existing employment transfer aid to certain categories of skilled workers. Back Page.

## INSTITUTE of Fiscal Studies

is launching today an independent committee on budgetary reform, which will consider what changes would be needed to allow State expenditure and revenue to be considered at the same time, rather than in the present fragmented manner. Back Page.

## MONEY SUPPLY

last month was steady or marginally higher, official statistics to be published this week are expected to show. Page 4

## PAY PACT with the TUC

General Council, would do nothing to help maintain or restore differentials, the general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association has said. Page 6

## PRICES SECRETARY

is expected to decide shortly whether to grant exemption from the Restrictive Practices Act for up to two years for some UK companies producing aluminium steel bars, including the British Steel Corporation. Page 6

## UNIONS are to ask the

Government for abolition of the 500,000 of the 2,500 jobs threatened at Slough, UK's main helicopter plant. The U.S. parent company has agreed to retain 500 jobs and increase its investment from £5m to between £25m and £10m. Back Page.

## RIG BREWERIES

near monopoly in certain areas of Britain will be examined today by Prices Secretaries discuss the possible to break up local monopolies of public houses in some parts of the country. Back Page.

## FRANCE'S steel industry

is expected to lose more than the 20,000 jobs forecast at the time of the State taking effective control in September. Page 2

## In Germany, the Social Democratic Party

has backed the steelworkers in the Ruhr striking for a 35-hour week. No progress has been made in the two-week-old strike which has left 80,000 workers idle. Page 2

## PHOENIX Assurance

and Eagle Star Insurance are to increase their rates for household contents policies in the new year to meet rapidly rising costs. A third company, Legal and General, has warned of increases but not yet decided on the scope. Back Page.

## CAR INSURANCE

premiums have risen an average of 17 per cent over the past three months, according to an insurance industry report. The increase, equivalent to an annual increase of 18.8 per cent, is more than twice the corresponding increase in the retail price index. Page 4

## CONSERVATIVE energy

spokesman, Mr. Tom King, has called for a government inquiry into allegations that BNOC has seriously abused its "uniquely powerful position" in North Sea development. Government's oil policies were, he maintains, making oil companies increasingly reluctant to invest in the North Sea, and risking some £15bn in lost revenue. Page 4

## COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE des

Petroles, the French State-owned petroleum group is to boost its exploration budget next year by more than 40 per cent to FF1,050m. Page 25

# Million join in peaceful protest march in Tehran

By SIMON HENDERSON AND ANDREW WHITLEY IN TEHRAN

Almost a million people marched through the centre of Tehran yesterday in the biggest protest so far against the Shah, while the regime shut the airport and guarded with tanks the north of the city where the Shah lives.

The march, and similar demonstrations in many other Iranian cities, called for the establishment of an Islamic Government, and voiced overwhelming support for the exiled religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, now in Paris.

But in western Iran the governor general of Ramadan province, Dr. Qodratollah Khodabadi, was shot and seriously wounded during a demonstration in the city of Ramadan. He was rushed to Tehran where he had an emergency operation for the removal of six bullets.

The Opposition claims he was shot by a soldier, but there were no independent reports on the incident.

In Tehran, the march was well organised and peaceful, with no police or soldiers visible along the main routes. Such processions would normally be banned under the martial law of General Azhari, the Prime Minister and military leader but permission was given two days ago when it became clear that the protest would go ahead under any circumstances.

A 17-point resolution presented by the leaders of the march, declared Ayatollah Khomeini to be the leader of the Iranian people and called for the overthrow of the Shah, saying the struggle would be continued until victory.

The scale of the protest, and its unity, bringing in all social classes, clearly illustrates the growing dilemma for General Azhari of how to work for a political solution while remaining loyal to the Shah as head of State. Many public sector workers remain on strike and little work is being done in the private sector because of the general disruption.

At one time, yesterday's march, which had started from at least eight points of the city, ran for more than six miles along the main road across town. The crowd overflowed the six lanes of the highway throughout.

## Curfew eased

It concluded early in the afternoon at the Shahyad Tower, a multi-storey edifice of sculptured concrete built in 1971 to commemorate 2,500 years of the Persian monarchy. The crowd, more than three-quarters of which consisted of young men, but which also included black veiled-and-robed women, dispersed peacefully and without tension. There are expected to be similar political marches today.

Like yesterday, today is a Shia Muslim festival, the high point of a month of mourning, and the religious centre of Qom, where the opposition estimated there had been 200,000 protesters.

The other big marches were reported at Mashhad, Tabriz and the religious centre of Qom, where the opposition estimated there had been 200,000 protesters.

Curfew, which normally starts

at 9 pm, has been relaxed until 11 pm over the three days of the holiday.

The only direct military presence was helicopters which flew constantly overhead. But, in the north of the capital where soldiers protected many suburbs around the Shah's palace, many cars were turned away at road-blocks.

As an extra security precaution, the international airport has been closed for 48 hours until tomorrow morning.

Yesterday, the airport road, which leads from the Shahyad Tower, was blocked by tanks.

Although several thousand foreign workers and their families have left, mostly Americans, the majority remain, and have been told to stay at home for the next few days by their embassies.

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## 'Little progress' on sex equality

By Alan Pike  
Labour Correspondent

PROGRESS towards genuine sex equality in industry has been largely disappointing, according to an Equal Opportunities Commission study of 575 leading employers.

The report concludes that most employers in large companies have developed policies for avoiding unlawful discrimination, but understanding of the wider issues is low. Only 2 per cent of companies analysed had taken any positive action to extend equal opportunities.

"It is clear that the vast majority of employers need to take detailed stock of the position to identify the extent to which discrimination—perhaps unwittingly—may be being perpetuated," the survey says.

The Commission started by obtaining information from employers in the country's most prominent companies. A total of 77 per cent of those approached supplied information, and some companies were visited.

Economic conditions in which the survey was conducted, strongly affected the reception it was given by employers.

"Many of the positive actions suggested by the Commission were seen as low priority compared with other business pressures. Traditional and attitudinal barriers have been part and parcel of a view that positive action is unnecessary and costly."

In general, the wider issues of equal opportunities had hardly been examined, and "indeed they may not even have been acknowledged as issues."

Only a quarter of companies surveyed had written equal opportunities policies. While 38 per cent had analysed their workforce according to sex, only 4 per cent had used the analysis to monitor progress on equality.

The report congratulates J. Sainsbury, Cadbury Schweppes, Wilkinson Match, Lloyds Bank, H. J. Heinz and Rolls-Royce for aspects of their employment policies.

It says, however, that shop floor and local trade union resistance is regarded by many employers as a substantial barrier to breaking down segregation, particularly in printing, chemical process and packaging work and pharmaceutical production.

There was also strong union opposition to providing compensatory training in the printing industry.

Job segregation was still common throughout industry with little evidence of a desire to change attitudes. Only seven employers interviewed mentioned that they had used the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act to apply positive discrimination in favour of women.

Equality between the sexes in industry. Free from the Equal Opportunities Commission.

## Fluor of U.S. in \$800m China deal

By STEWART FLEMING IN NEW YORK

FLUOR, a leading U.S. engineering group has signed an \$800m contract with China to develop a major new copper mine.

The contract is for the design and management of a copper mine and concentrator capable of processing 180,000 tons of ore a day. It is scheduled for completion in 1982.

Fluor will be reimbursed on the basis of its costs and expenses, plus a profit. This announcement comes in the same week that United States Steel, the largest American steel producer, disclosed that it is seeking a \$18m plus contract to develop an iron ore facility, and follows a statement from Bethlehem Steel, the industry's second leader, that it has signed a \$100m contract to develop an iron ore mine.

Over the weekend, Texaco, the large oil company, also joined the ranks of corporations signing new contracts with China. The company said that the Texaco synthesis gas generation process has been licensed for use in the manufacture of ammonia in the People's Republic.

The new contracts underline the burgeoning trading links between China and the U.S. and the growing opportunities for business which U.S. companies see in an area of the world for so many years virtually closed to them.

Even a Wall Street stockbroker, Mr. Don Regan, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch, recently made a visit there.

Earlier this month it was disclosed that the Chinese were negotiating with Boeing to buy five 747 Jumbo jets and in November a Pan American World Airways unit, Intercontinental Hotels, disclosed that it had agreed to build and operate a chain of hotels in China at a prospective cost of \$800m.

Oil equipment and mining are two areas in which U.S. companies are showing particular interest. But several corporations in the agricultural industry are also active. Pullman apparently is hoping to expand its links with the development of China's fertiliser business while executives of the farm equipment company, Deere, are discussing licensing arrangements which could involve building plants in China to produce Deere-designed farm tractors and implements.

## Meriden may ask for interest to be waived

By ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

MERIDEN motor cycle co-operative is expected to seek more important management role. Mr. John Nelson, the managing director, has stepped down to become spares and service manager.

To lift both morale and output at the factory, a two-tier bonus scheme is being introduced. It will give production workers a £8 increase in their £64.68 weekly pay.

Unofficial soundings by the co-operative at GEC and Guest Keen and Nettlefold, both of which have given financial or management assistance in the past, so far appears to have met with little success.

Mr. Robinson, who played a leading role in the setting up of the co-operative in 1974, is likely to take upon himself much of the task of trying to recruit new management.

Since its formation with a £4.2m state loan in 1974, there and former managing director of

Jaguar Cars, has taken over an important management role. Mr. John Nelson, the managing director, has stepped down to become spares and service manager.

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## Healey commits UK to talks on developing EMS

By PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was committed over the weekend to playing a full role in further discussions on the development of the European Monetary System.

Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, also committed the UK to efforts to ensure that the performance of European currencies become more harmonised.

He argued that "most of the problems relating to an EMS have yet to be seriously discussed." Britain, he said, would play a "leading role" in talks about turning the new European Currency Unit into a reserve asset which would lighten the load on the dollar, about the pooling of reserves in Europe, about the setting up of a European Monetary Fund and about relationships with other currencies like the dollar and the yen.

Mr. Healey made this commitment during an interview on Saturday in the BBC 2 television programme On the Record on the results of last week's EEC heads of government summit in Brussels.

Throughout the interview he stressed that, while Britain was not joining the exchange rate mechanism because it was too like the snake (the current European currency bloc), the Government had not turned its back on the system and remained keenly interested in wider aspects of its development.

In particular, Britain will press over the next few months for concerted action for higher growth and lower inflation along the lines agreed last July at Bremen and Bonn, and for the successful conclusion of studies aimed at helping the less prosperous members of the EEC—the UK, Italy and Ireland.

The British summit requested the EEC Commission to study the relationship between greater convergence in economic performance and the use of Community instruments, notably the parts of the budget aimed at reducing structural imbalances. All this is seen by Britain as crucial to the success of any durable exchange rate mechanism.

British officials are also interested in the possibility of broadening the discussion on concerted action on economic management to include inflation rates and incomes policies.

One idea might be to create some more permanent form of EEC machinery to discuss the subject below the level of Finance Ministers. There is unlikely to be any great public pressure for the changes, since the UK will not want to move unless it sees a distinct possibility of success and a positive response from other members.

During the interview, Mr. Healey referred to the remarks made last Tuesday by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany that the UK had voluntarily offered to keep sterling within a 2½ per cent band as in the formal currency mechanism.

Mr. Healey said this was a "slip" on the German's part. The British Government, he said, had indicated that it would try to keep the pound stable in relation to the currencies of other countries.

Continued on Back Page  
News Analysis Page 4

## CBI detects drift above 5%

By JOHN ELLIOTT

A GRADUAL increase in the number of wage settlements being agreed above the Government's official 5 per cent limit was indicated at the weekend by the Confederation of British Industry's pay data bank.

Although the number of workers who have settled Phase Four deals stands at only 840,000, which is extremely low for the time of year, there has been a gradual shift in the past fortnight to deals above the 5 per cent limit.

Ford Motor's 17 per cent deal is included in the figures, but it is clear that the confederation is also receiving reports from other companies of limit-breaking settlements. Rises agreed at Vauxhall Motors and British

Oxygen have not yet been included. So far 333 deals covering 840,000 workers, have been reported. This compares with 197 covering 300,000 a fortnight ago and shows a slight quickening in the rate of negotiations, even though the confederation says there is still a marked reluctance to settle.

The 333 deals include 14 private sector national agreements, among which are four awards by wages councils. Rises above the 5 per cent limit have been agreed in 13 of the settlements in line with the pay White Paper's exceptions for low-paid workers.

But apart from these settlements, only 71 per cent of the deals at workers in the offer deals have

accepted rises within the 5 per cent limit. A fortnight ago this figure stood at about 85 per cent.

The confederation has also been told of more than 100 self-financing productivity schemes covering a total of 150,000 workers since the beginning of August.

The future of the Government's pay policy will be discussed today at a meeting between Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and leaders of the British Institute of Management.

A meeting is also planned between the confederation and the Prime Minister. Both organisations are protesting against the imposition of sanctions on companies, such as Ford, which exceed the limit.

## Dutch decide on U.S. aircraft

By CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

HOLLAND HAS opted for the Lockheed Orion to replace the Dutch Navy's ageing fleet of Lockheed Neptunes for marine reconnaissance work.

This decision comes as a blow to the French manufacturer Dassault, which hoped its Breguet Atlantique would be chosen, and to the Dutch government, which hoped for sizeable compensation orders from France.

The Dutch Cabinet has decided in favour of the Orion because the 13 aircraft will cost only £1,900m (£191m), £1,500m (£585.3m) less than the

Atlantic. The Navy also prefers the Orion, which can be delivered from 1981 compared with 1984 for the French aircraft.

Earlier this year the Atlantique emerged as a clear favourite and the choice of this aircraft would have heralded a far-reaching aerospace deal between France and Holland.

The French were willing to buy 18 F-27 turbo-props and were also ready to place compensation orders worth half of the total value of the Atlantique contract. At a late stage in the decision-making, though, it became clear

that the French were unwilling to join in the development of Fokker's F-29 jet.



## OVERSEAS NEWS

## U.S. gives a show of support for Ceausescu

By Paul Lendvai in Vienna

THE ROMANIAN leadership received demonstrative U.S. backing on Saturday for its independent-minded policies, and Mr. Michael Blumenthal, U.S. Treasury Secretary, conveyed a personal message from President Jimmy Carter to President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Mr. Blumenthal, who earlier had visited Moscow and Bonn, was sent to Bucharest to underline publicly "the importance of Romania's independence and U.S.-Romanian friendship." He also pointedly praised Romania's constructive role in international affairs.

It is understood that it was the Romanians, engaged in a test of strength with the Soviet Union over increased defence expenditures and military integration, which pressed for urgent and visible U.S. support.

The Romanians hope that two-way trade with the U.S. will rise to \$1bn by 1980. Diplomatic observers do not exclude the possibility that the Romanians—after an abortive attempt in 1975—may again put out feelers to Washington for the purchase of U.S. arms on a long-term credit basis.

On Saturday, the Romanian party daily, *Scinteia*, praised France for standing up for the national control of its armed forces at the recent NATO meeting. The newspaper also hailed President de Gaulle's decision 12 years ago to withdraw France from military integration in NATO.

In an indirect but unequivocal answer to a recent statement by Mr. Leonid Brezhnev the Soviet President, the newspaper referred to the latest NATO session as a proof that there was no justification for strengthening the blocs and escalating military expenditures.

In a sharp contrast to the Soviet line, it concluded that the activity of the military alliances should be curbed rather than strengthened.

Genuine security, it argued, did not depend on bloc ties and ever-greater defence expenditure but on concrete measures to promote disarmament and military disengagement.

## Job losses in French steel likely to top estimate

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

JOB LOSSES in France's reorganised steel industry are expected to exceed the 10,000 figure foreseen in September, when the State took effective control of the principal companies.

Details of cutbacks are due to be presented this week. The Lorraine-based producer Saeclor-Solac has already disclosed plans to shed 5,000 jobs next year and in 1980.

Many of these will be the outright redundancies, and the group is already seeking authorisation to axe 2,500 jobs.

The figure from Usinor and Chiers-Chatillon, which were merged last month, is expected to be about 12,500. This would bring the total reduction to 21,000 out of a French steel workforce of 140,000. The main plants expected to suffer are at Longwy in Lorraine and in the Valenciennes region of Northern France.

The new schedule of job reductions will come into force next spring, after completion of a previous plan cutting 16,200 jobs, agreed in 1977 between employers and the moderate union, Force Ouvrière.

Unions are planning meetings in Lorraine from tomorrow to consider possible strike action against the plan. The Left-wing CFTD described the announcement of the Saeclor-Solac plan as a stab in the back, and proposed a joint front with the other steel unions.

The Saeclor-Solac, where the Government has put in a senior technocrat, M. Jacques Mayoux, as chairman, said it would show a further loss this year before financial charges and depreciation. Last year its losses tripled to about £270m.

The company employs about half Lorraine's steelworkers. The plan, due to be carried out by the end of 1980, means its workforce will have been cut by more than 80 per cent since 1970, from 55,100 to 26,300.

The management said that action taken so far to make the company more competitive had brought considerable results, but not enough.

Taking into account the Usinor-Chiers-Chatillon plan and cutbacks in smaller steel companies, the French steel industry's workforce is likely to be about 118,000 at the end of 1980, compared with 138,000 in 1974.

In the period from January to October this year, France produced 19.2m tonnes of steel, 2 per cent below the equivalent level last year.

Neither Mr. Begin in his speech of thanks nor President Sadat, who read for him by Mr. Marek, dealt with the problems stalling the peace agreement. Mr. Sadat reiterated that the aim was to bring security to the Middle East peoples "and to a life of liberty and dignity."

Mr. Begin repeated his conviction that the Camp David agreement "can serve, if and when signed and ratified, as a basis for peace."

Mr. Begin and Mr. Marek shook hands several times and chatted during the ceremony, but no talks on the Camp David agreement have been held here.

## Security tight at Nobel ceremony

By William Duffell in Oslo

WITH MR. CYRUS VANCE, U.S. Secretary of State, visiting Cairo in an attempt to rescue the Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize awards were presented yesterday in a low-key ceremony.

Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, received his gold medal and cheque in the name of President Sadat's half of the NK750,000 (£75,000) prize was accepted on his behalf by his special advisor, Mr. Seyid Marek.

For security reasons, the ceremony was moved from its traditional venue in the large hall of Oslo University to the small Christian IV Room of the medieval Akershus Castle, overlooking the harbour.

Armed soldiers and police circled all vantage points and approaches to the castle, while an army helicopter circled overhead throughout the ceremony.

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## Kennedy's oratory fails to shake Carter's dominance

BY JUREK MARTIN IN MEMPHIS

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY from Massachusetts this weekend served warning on President Carter not to take the allegiance of the Democratic Party for granted.

At the Administration's austere economic policies bite too deeply into social programmes.

In a vivid, impassioned speech that had the previously passive delegates to the party's mid-term convention here out of their seats and roaring approval, Senator Kennedy took the case for introducing a national health insurance scheme forthwith in terms that touched a raw nerve among the party's discomfited liberals.

The Senator said he supported the fight against inflation if the burdens were equally shared. But he went on, his voice rising in the manner of his late brother, arms punching the air, "we cannot accept a policy that cuts spending to the bone in areas like jobs and health."

He allowed billions of dollars in wasteful spending for tax subsidies to continue and adds even greater fat and waste through inflationary spending for defence.

The contrast between Mr. Kennedy's eloquent fire and brimstone and Mr. Carter's calm and measured approach in his appearance here was stark. But it may be unwise to read too much into it in looking ahead to the 1980 Presidential election.

For, as this conference wound down into its closing hours, it also appeared that Mr. Carter remained solidly in control of the Democratic Party and that the liberal teeth were in the process of being drawn.

This was demonstrated during the afternoon when the conference voted down a proposal that would have demanded of the President that social spending be kept at current levels. Further evidence was provided by a poll of half the voting delegates here taken by a TV network which showed Mr. Carter favoured by 58 per cent to 34 per cent for Senator Kennedy.

Mr. Carter gave no public hint here of his intentions for 1980. But he is understood to have conferred privately with leading supporters in New Hampshire, which holds the first presidential primary 18 months from now, and intimated that he would have no objection if he were to start organising quietly on his behalf.

Apart from Senator Kennedy, most of the President's main critics and potential political opponents did not bother to come to Memphis. This made it much easier for the White House's task of controlling the conference in such a way as to give the semblance of unopposed debate on the party's platform in 1980 without running the risk of tying the President's hands.

The President said he had no apologies to make for maintaining a strong defence posture, but he held out the hope that once a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union had been signed shortly he would put SALT 3 talks "high on the agenda" and that these should result in much more drastic cuts in missile strength.

He repeatedly stressed that, as President, he had to balance many competing interests within the confines of the need to cure inflation. But both he and the heavy of Administration officials also present maintained that the burdens would be fairly shared. And if his keynote speech on Friday night was rather flat, he showed again in talking to workshops on defence and the economy on Saturday morning that in a more informal setting he can be formidably articulate and impressive.

Italy's Prime Minister, who will open a crucial parliamentary debate tomorrow on the controversial issue of Italian membership in the European Monetary System (EMS), now threatening the survival of his minority Christian Democratic administration.

To avert the threat of a Government crisis on this issue, Sig. Andreotti is expected to propose to the parties supporting his administration a compromise which will reassert Italy's firm commitment to join the EMS as soon as possible but not immediately.

After a series of meetings with the leaders of the main political parties and the monetary authorities, Sig. Andreotti is to hold talks today with Mr. Francois Xavier Ortoli, the vice-president of the European Economic Community, and his own ruling party before announcing his Government's decision on the EMS to Parliament.

While most of the political parties, including the Communists, the Socialists and the Christian Democrats, are generally opposed to Italy's entry into the EMS under the current terms.

However, there is no indication yet that President Carter would agree to such a postponement.

Mr. Vance, who is carrying with him messages from President Carter, is to leave for Israel tonight to attend tomorrow the funeral of Mrs. Golda Meir, the former Israeli Prime Minister.

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## SPD backs German strikers

BY ADRIAN DICKS IN BONN

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic Party made a determined attempt over the weekend to reaffirm its links with the trade union movement, and to redress what many in the party see as an unfair weighting of political and public opinion against the unions in recent years.

A special party conference in Cologne expressed solidarity with the striking Ruhr steel workers, in the shape of resolutions condemning the lock-out and approving as a "long-term goal" the 35-hour working week claim that is at the centre of the steel dispute.

Meanwhile there has been no progress towards solution of the two-week old steel dispute itself, in which the combination of a strike and an employers' lock-out has made a total of 80,000 workers out of some 200,000 in the North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland and Bremen bargaining regions.

Herr Friedhelm Fathmann, the North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Minister who has been called in to mediate, held further meetings on Saturday and yesterday with both sides, but reported that none of the proposals put to him in earlier talks had been accepted.

He said last night he was sceptical about the chances of progress towards solution of the dispute.

at an end to the dispute, and he has not arranged further talks. The SPD conference resolution said that the party now regarded a ban of the lock-out weapon as "unavoidable."

However, it is unlikely that the coalition Cabinet's firm decision last spring to take no action on the matter will be overturned as a result of the resolution. Herr Herbert Wehner, the party leader in the Bundestag, warned that in present circumstances, any effort by the SPD to introduce a Bill banning lock-outs would not find a majority—a blunt reminder that the party could not hope to convince its Free Democratic coalition partners to join such an initiative.

Support for the 35-hour working week came in a somewhat less direct form, when the SPD leaders formally endorsed a campaign programme for next year's European elections in which a shorter work week is held out among other long-term objectives of a "social" Europe.

Herr Hans Koehneke, the Mayor of Bremen and deputy SPD chairman, denied that either resolution breached the tradition of non-interference by political parties in industrial disputes, but declared that "no one can stop us from saying which side our hearts are beating for in this dispute."

The conference also adopted an impressive list of candidates for the European elections, headed by Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor, and including distinguished SPD politicians and trade union

Some 14 political parties have decided not to participate in the Bangladesh general elections to the National Assembly due to be held on January 27. They claim that without certain prerequisites the elections will be a farce and a waste of public and private funds.

Their prerequisites include withdrawal of martial law and the restoration of the fundamental rights of the people through the repeal of all repressive laws.

They also seek restoration of parliamentary democracy, unconditional release of all political prisoners and freedom of the press, and the right of appeal to the highest courts of law against conviction under martial law; retirement from the army of Maj. Gen. Ziaur Rahman if he wishes to participate in politics and restoration of the freedom of the Press.

President Ziaur Rahman announced an election date on November 30 in a nationwide radio and television broadcast. The new Parliament will have the power to form or amend laws, amend the constitution, approve or disapprove the budget, and even impeach or remove the President.

Most of the political parties have been agitating over the last few months for the restoration of Parliamentary democracy. 12 of the parties planning to boycott the polls jointly participated in the Presidential elections that took place on June 3. Their candidate lost to President Ziaur Rahman.

President Rahman, in his November 30 speech said he would like to have in the new National Assembly a viable and constructive opposition.

Out of the 21 political parties, seven appeared ready to participate in the elections on January 27.

China poster incident

A new poster urging America's President Jimmy Carter to champion human rights in China was quickly torn down from Peking's "democracy wall" yesterday by a man who said his author was a Soviet provocateur, witnesses told Reuters.

The Soviet Union plans to end its commercial whaling operation within five years, Mr. Vlastislav Zemsky, chief Soviet delegate to an International Whaling commission meeting in California, was quoted as saying in an interview with the Los Angeles Times, reported on Saturday.

Vietnam troops gather

Thailand's supreme military commander was quoted yesterday as saying that intelligence reports indicated that Vietnam has moved most of its 40,000 soldiers in Laos to the Cambodian border. Reuters reports from Bangkok: Thai armed forces have been put on alert as a precautionary measure.

Lebanon row

The Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Ali al-Sherar, is recuperating in a Beirut hospital after he was shot when the helicopter in which he was travelling came under fire from Christian militia ground forces on Friday. The shooting touched off a possible uproar because of its possible repercussions on the Arab role in the Lebanese crisis, writes the *Iran Hijazi* from Beirut. The incident has led to the postponement of a meeting of the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Syrian committee which was formed in October to help President Elias Sarkis consolidate the ceasefire in Lebanon.

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**ADELA INVESTMENT COMPANY S.A.**

US Dollars 25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1983

Notice is hereby given Pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the above mentioned Notes, the principal amount of US Dollars 1,000,000.00 has been drawn for Redemption on January 11, 1979 for Sinking Fund purposes at 100 per cent of the Principal amount thereof. The following is a List of the Notes to be redeemed therewith:

US Dollars 1,000 Notes to be redeemed	
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## Britain now in deficit on trade with France

PARIS—French trade with Britain swung sharply into surplus in the first nine months of this year, with French exports exceeding imports by FF13,350m (£38m), against a deficit of FF11.5m in the same period last year, latest official figures show.

For the whole of 1977 France-British trade showed a surplus of FF2.1bn in Britain's favour.

Overall French exports to Britain totalled FF18.1bn in the first nine months of this year, up from FF14.8bn a year earlier. French imports, accounted for FF14.8bn in the period up from FF13.3bn in the same 1977 period.

Britain, which is France's fourth-biggest client, accounted for 6.5 per cent of French exports worldwide in 1977. France—Britain's third-biggest customer after the United States and West Germany—accounted for 6.8 per cent of British exports.

France increased its purchases of British petroleum products by 15 per cent to FF1.1bn up to end of September from FF955.2m a year earlier.

Trade in raw materials was FF2.4bn in France's favour compared with a deficit of FF13.9m in the first nine months of 1977. French exports exceeded imports in the semi-finished products sector by FF18.8m against a deficit of FF24.4m a year before.

The traditional French trade deficit in capital equipment narrowed sharply in the first nine months of this year, to FF1.9bn from FF1.3bn in the same period of 1977. For all of 1977 French imports of capital equipment exceeded exports by FF1.6m.

British imports of French consumer goods were FF2.04bn higher than exports during the first nine months, up from a trade deficit of FF1.4bn a year before.

Figures for 1977 show that British investments in France amounted to FF1.46bn, or almost three times the 1976 total of FF483m.

In contrast, French investment in Britain dropped by 35.7 per cent in the same period to FF1.83bn. Of the total, FF1.83bn (or 95 per cent) were accounted for by investments by French oil companies in North Sea oil exploration.

AP-DJ

## Britain still leads W. Germany in world tractor sales

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

ALTHOUGH THE UK's share of world tractor exports has dropped sharply in recent years, it is one of the few sectors in which Britain's share still exceeds that of West Germany.

Other sectors in which the UK's share is close to that of Germany include statistical added, (average for export values per tonne: Britain \$5,700, France \$7,400, Germany \$8,200.) These differences, the study suggests, are due less to lower British prices than to lower quality or less sophisticated types of machine.

In all three countries, the branches of engineering most dependent on exports are also those in which imports have penetrated the home market most deeply.

Engineering in Britain, West Germany and France: some statistical comparisons, by Christopher Saunders, *Sussex European Paper No. 3, Page 22*. Editorial comment, Page 14

## Italians seek British technical co-operation

BY HAZEL DUFFY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GEPI, the Italian Government-controlled industrial holding company, wants to buy British technology and give British companies the opportunity to take interests in Italian manufacturing industry.

The Italian organisation has 350 companies on its list for which it wants to buy in new technology on the basis of licensing. The range of products made by the companies include textiles and clothing, agricultural equipment, electrical goods, electronic components and aeronautical products.

As well as offering to buy the licence, GEPI is also offering the opportunity to buy a part or all of the company in Italy into which the licence is sold. There is no time limit on this aspect of the proposed deals, so it means that the adoption and application of the licence by the Italian company will be funded by the Italian Government until such point as the British manufacturer desires to take a stake.

## Kenya-Tanzania talks

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEGOTIATIONS HAVE resumed between Kenya and Tanzania on trade arrangements which could lead to a reopening of the border between the two countries, closed by Tanzania early in 1977 after Tanzania accused Kenya of working to end the East African Community.

The Community collapsed in July last year, when the East African Common Market also ceased to exist.

Tanzania has refused to reopen the border—with the aim of cutting Kenya's former trade with Tanzania, and its important trade with Zambia and Malawi—until acceptable trade arrangements are agreed.

The latest discussions, held in Mombasa, covered proposals to establish an inter-government committee to deal with trade matters.

## UK aero engine orders increase

Financial Times Reporter

THE UK aerospace industry earned a payments surplus of over £302m in the first ten months of this year, with exports of nearly £398m more than offsetting imports of over £644m.

A feature of the latest figures from the Society of British Aerospace Companies is the high value of engine exports, amounting to nearly £403m for the first ten months.

Of this, nearly £131m was accounted for by exports of new engines, including Rolls-Royce RB-211s for the U.S. Boeing 747 and Lockheed TriStar programmes. But sales of spares and refurbished engines were also high at £162.3m and £110m respectively.

Another strong feature has been the expansion in exports of equipment this year, with exports of instruments running at close to £49m for the first ten months.

Boeing said in Seattle that it had sold three 727-200 jets to Mexicana airlines. Boeing said deliveries will be in April, May and August 1980. Mexicana has already ordered five 727s, for delivery in 1979. Boeing said the advanced aircraft will be powered by Pratt and Whitney engines.

Reuters

## £15m grant for Sudanese

By Our Foreign Staff

BRITAIN HAS granted Sudan £15m in programme aid to relieve its economic problems. The grant is to be used to buy British goods and services including urgently needed spare parts for British equipment.

The sectors in which the grant will be used include the railways, power generation, cement production, cotton ginneries and equipment for road maintenance and agriculture in the Southern region.

Balance of payments problems and congestion have hindered the purchase of spare parts in many sectors of the economy.

## £178m foreign boost for Blue Circle

BY PAUL TAYLOR

BLUE CIRCLE Industries, the British cement group, has completed financing arrangements for three major overseas expansion projects together valued at £178m. The projects are in Mexico, Malaysia and Nigeria.

The International Finance Corporation, with the participation of a group of British, Canadian and U.S. financial institutions headed by the LibraBank, London, is to lend \$100m for the Mexican project, the largest financing operation ever undertaken by the corporation in Mexico.

Details of the financing arrangements were finalised yesterday and will allow Blue Circle's Mexican associate company, *Empresas Tolteca de Mexico* to proceed with the largest expansion of Mexico's cement industry for five years.

Work is expected to begin shortly on the project which will increase the company's production capacity by 2.2m tonnes a year from its present level of 3.4m tonnes a year.

The project includes the construction of a new 1m tonne a year cement plant at Hermosillo in North West Mexico, the expansion and modernisation of Tolteca's eight other existing cement works and the improvement of its ready-mix concrete facilities.

Blue Circle Industries has a 49 per cent interest in *Empresas Tolteca*, and through its consultancy division will be providing technical, engineering and other specialist services to assist in construction and plant operations.

Details of the Mexican project follow closely on the announcement by the group's Malaysian associate, *Associated Pan-Malaysian Cement*, of plans to expand production capacity of its Rawang works near Kuala Lumpur. Blue Circle has a 50 per cent interest in the company.

The new plant is to be built on the 25-year-old Rawang factory site and will provide 1.2m tonnes of new capacity. It is expected to come on stream in late 1980 making Rawang the most up-to-date and biggest cement plant in South East Asia.

A large part of the financial backing for the project is being provided by a consortium of banks led by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation which is providing £22m in the form of guarantee and term loans.

In Nigeria the Group's associate company, the West African Portland Cement Company, in which the group has a 40 per cent interest has recently completed funding arrangements for the building of a third kiln at its Shagamu works which will increase capacity by 350,000 tonnes a year.

Work on the third kiln has already started and it is due to be completed in late 1981 bringing the works up to its planned capacity of 1m tonnes a year. The project is being designed and engineered by Blue Circle's consultancy division which supervised construction of the earlier phases in the project. The group is also a partner with Federal and State governments in the 800,000 tonne a year dry-process plant at Asbaka in Bauchi State which is due for completion in the second half of next year.

Elsewhere, the group's current overseas expansion programme includes a new 1.2m dry-process works at Berrima in New South Wales, Australia. The plant, run by Blue Circle Southern Cement, in which it has a 42.25 per cent interest, is due for commission shortly.

Blue Circle Industries reported group profits before tax of £47.9m last year, 53 per cent of which was contributed by the company's overseas interests. The group's half-year pre-tax profits until June, 1978, amounted to £22.3m in the same period last year. Turnover amounted to £193m compared to £177.3m, 1977.

## Export business helps French machine tool manufacturers weather domestic depression

BY TERRY DODSWORTH

IF SUCCESS in the machine-tool sector were only a matter of exports, the French industry would have a case for undiluted rejoicing this year.

Its policy of export-led growth, prompted by a Government plan unveiled in 1976, has led to a healthy improvement in its sales overseas. Export revenue is expected to be up by about 25 per cent this year to FF1.7bn (£198m), representing a 21 per cent increase in volume to 45,000 tonnes. As a result, France should emerge with a balance-of-payments surplus in machine tools in 1978 worth about FF1.35bn.

This is the first time in years that the country has been able to rid itself of deep-seated deficits in this sector. But far from leading to recovery in the industry, this improvement overseas has come at a time when

overall production is dropping. This is because the French market itself has collapsed. It has now sunk to the level of the early 1960s, and is showing no signs of recovery. Output is expected to be about 72,000 tonnes this year, some 16 per cent less than in 1977.

Faced with these stagnant market conditions, the industry has resisted the strong Government pressure for rationalisation into larger groups. Earlier this year, for example, the Renault machine tool division, which vies with *Emman-Schneider*, the subsidiary of the *Emman-Schneider* group, for the number one position in the French league table, abruptly and conclusively turned down the suggestion that it should absorb the troubled *Ratier-Forrest* GSP concern. Since then, the Government has stepped in to put together a

private aid for *Ratier-Forrest*. The machine tool manufacturers would like to see the Government intervening to stimulate the market at home and provide the base for a continuing push overseas. But whatever the Government does on this front—there has been vague talk about measures to reduce taxes on industry and on the cost of credit—it is difficult to escape the conclusion that manufacturing industry in general must first overcome its caution over new investment in tooling.

At the root of this problem lies an industrial structure in which between 60 and 70 per cent of all machine tools are reckoned to be more than ten years old. Much of this is evidently ripe for renewal. But, then, the Government has stepped in to put together a

facturers themselves claim to have developed many of the advanced new tools necessary for these replacement programmes, the orders have not been forthcoming.

Overcoming this psychological block is something which the machine-tool producers cannot hope to do themselves. It relates to the general reluctance to invest in more capital intensive methods at a time when there can only add to the present high unemployment levels.

In the meantime, the industry is becoming increasingly anxious over the prospects for exports next year. Despite an increase in demand in West Germany and the U.S. export orders for French manufacturers have apparently been slowing down in recent months. This is another reason why manufacturers would like to see some improvement at home.

## SHIPPING REPORT

### Iranian unrest hits market

BY LYNTON MCLEAN

THE SEASONAL confusion in the tanker market for oil tankers as owners and charterers search for favourable contracts prior to the holidays was made worse last week by the renewal of anti-government political activity in Iran.

The tanker chartering market in the Gulf fell sharply over the week, with the fall in freight rates much greater than had been expected.

A very large crude oil tanker was able to select tonnage at will, fixed by Galbraith, Wrightson & Co. The result will be a further fall in the start of the week at Worldscale.

scale 66 to Swedish charters. The ship was loaded by the end of the week, with rates for a 273,000 deadweight ton vessel, loading at the same time, had fallen to Worldscale 55.

Tanker tonnage was reported to be still queuing at Kharg Island. Oil cargoes were being supplied only slowly, and with the fall in freight rates, the tonnage arriving in the Gulf daily, charterers will be able to select tonnage at will. The result will be a further fall in freight rates.

The markets in the Mediterranean and African areas also fell last week. The freight rates for vessels over 100,000 dwt were at least 15 points lower than the previous week.

The tanker tonnage lying idle totalled 235m dwt at the end of last month, with 197 vessels laid-up. But the tonnage of oil tankers engaged in the grain trade fell last month compared with October. Twelve ships, totalling 561,944 dwt were trading in grain last month, a fall of four vessels totalling over 175,000 dwt compared with October.

There was considerable activity on the sale and purchase market last week, particularly in West Germany, where Hansa Lines have put four 12,900 dwt ships, the *Hohenfels*, *Falkenfels*, *Crostatfels* and *Kybfels* on the market. The ships were built 11 years ago and are for sale at around £1.5m each.

The West German Shipping Association said last week that this year had been the worst of the past decade. The association said there were no signs that the market prospects would improve next year. The German shipping sector had suffered particularly from this rising value of the D-Mark, but there were signs that the underlying depression in shipping had worsened during the year, the association said in its 1978 annual report.

## World Economic Indicators

UNEMPLOYMENT		Nov. 78	Oct. 78	Sept. 78	Nov. 77
U.K.	000s	1,328.9	1,360.0	1,378.1	1,432.9
	%	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.1
Holland	000s	209.2	210.2	211.6	204.4
	%	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3
W. Germany	000s	922.0	901.6	864.3	1,004.2
	%	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.4
U.S.	000s	5,900.0	5,900.0	6,000.0	6,800.0
	%	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.9
		Oct. 78	Sept. 78	Aug. 78	Oct. 77
France	000s	1,344.1	1,284.0	1,157.0	1,190.2
	%	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.2
Belgium	000s	279.5	268.4	270.5	272.6
	%	7.0	6.5	6.5	10.5
		Sept. 78	Aug. 78	July 78	Sept. 77
Japan	000s	1,250.0	1,210.0	1,150.0	1,050.0
	%	2.2	2.3	2.3	1.9
		July 78	April 78	Jan. 78	July 77
Italy	000s	1,458.0	1,450.0	1,520.0	1,692.0
	%	7.5	7.2	8.0	7.9

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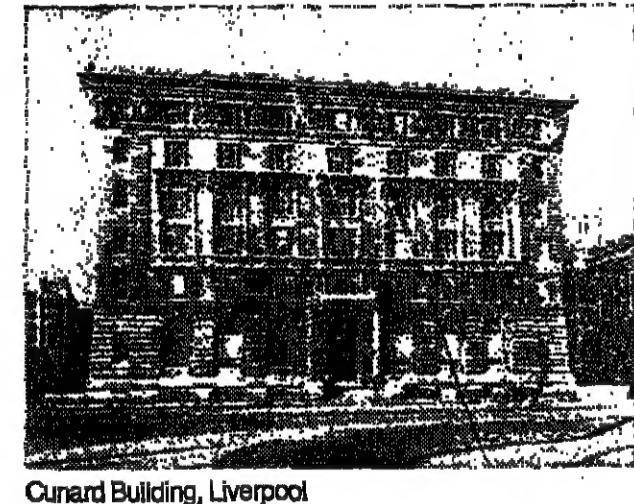
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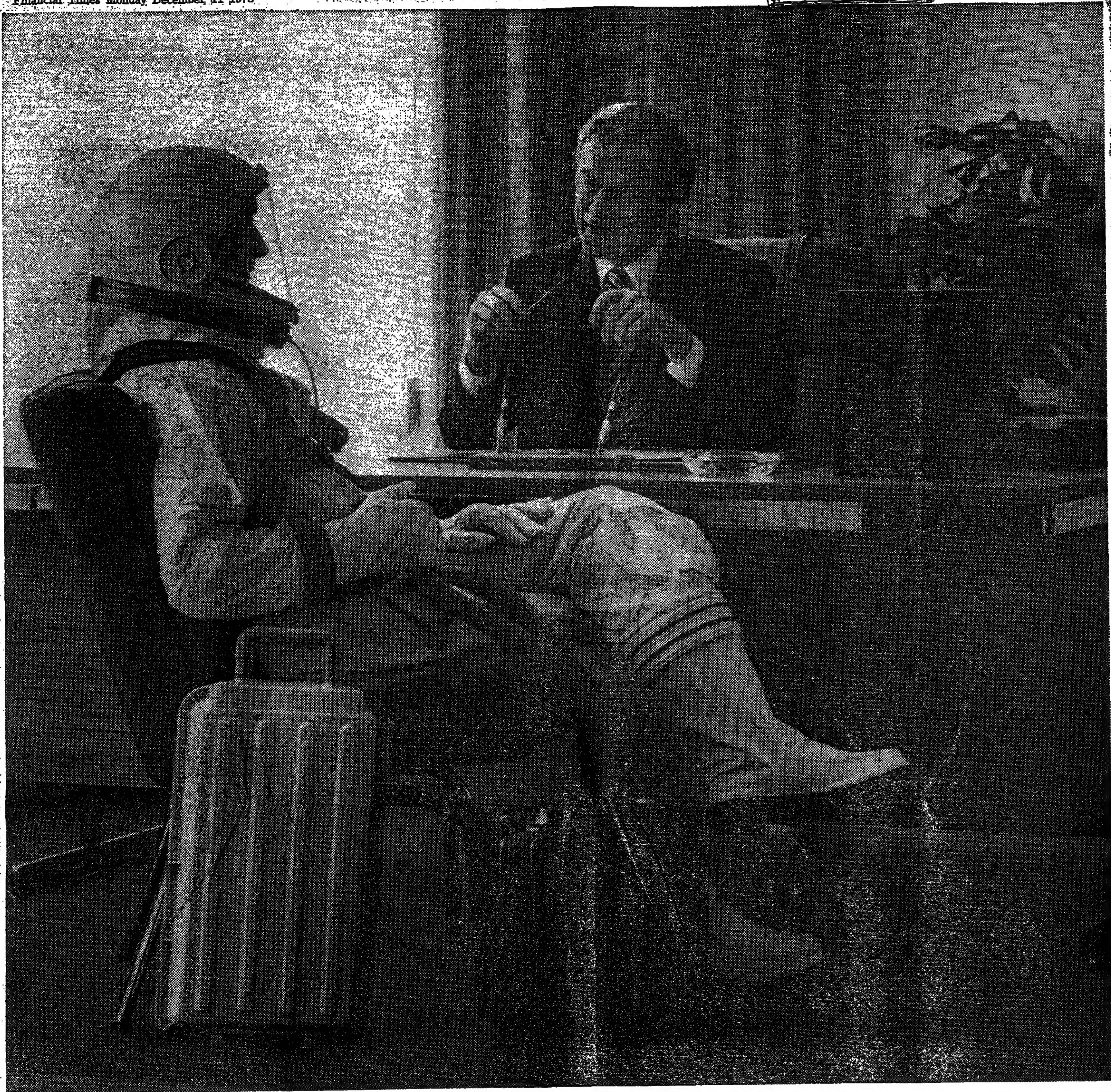
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## Your NatWest bank manager will help you export where you haven't exported before.

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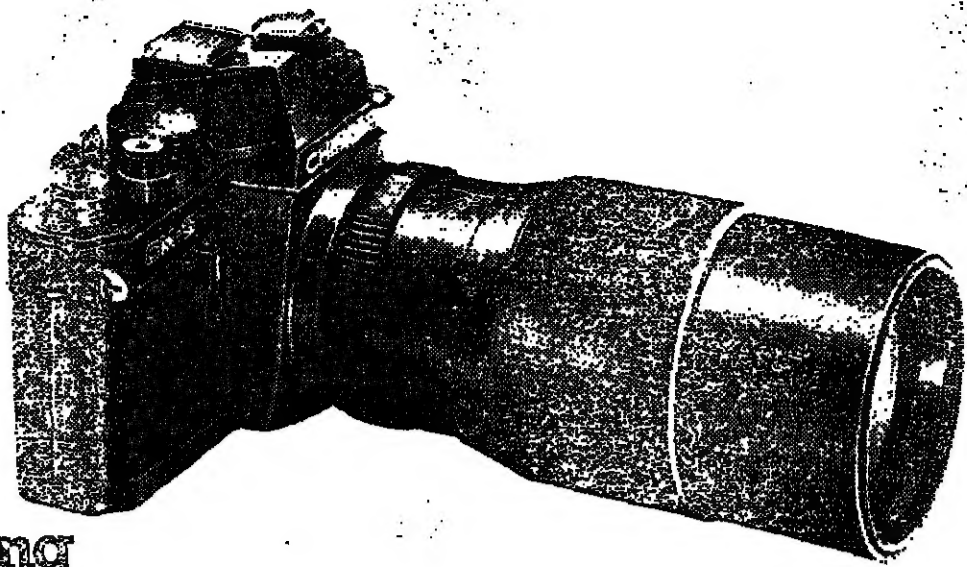
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### Just ask him.

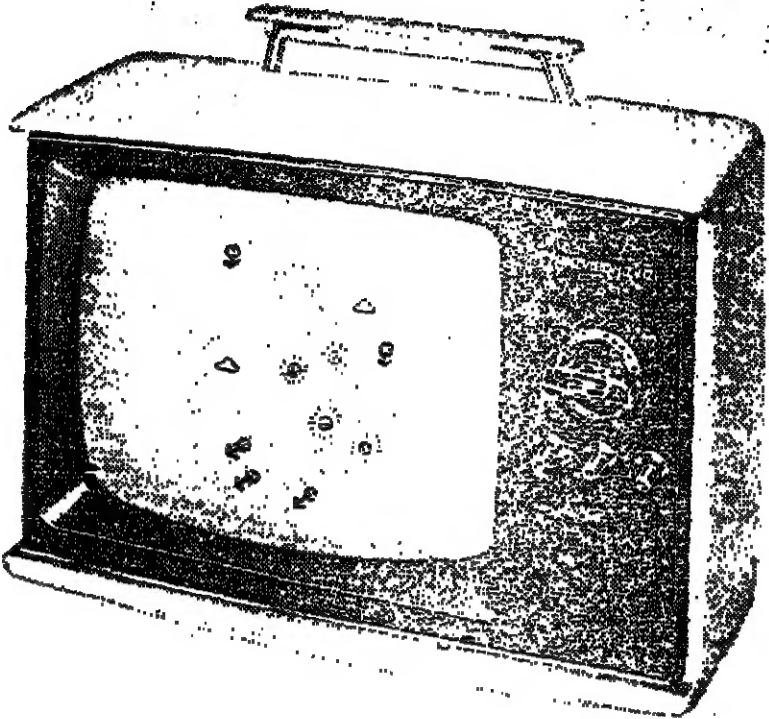




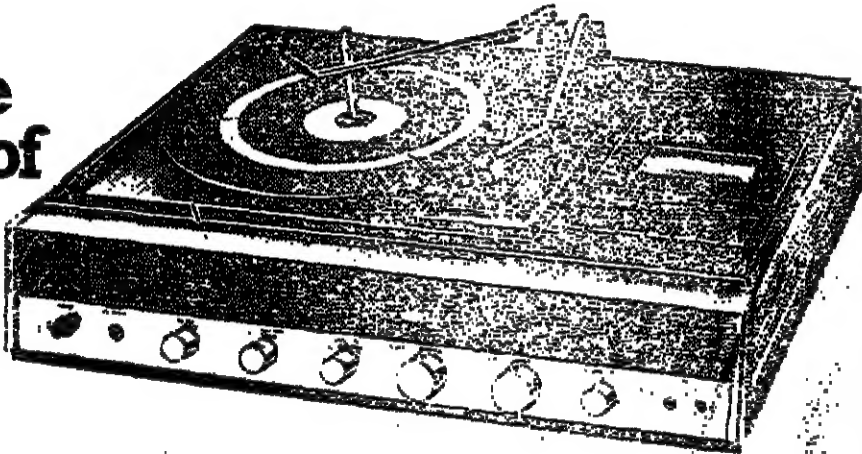
# Dixons



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view of their future...



consulted  
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climate...



listened to the  
track record of  
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companies...



made a detailed  
calculation of  
their total business  
requirements...

and one of Britain's  
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was sold on an ICL 2960  
computer system.

As Europe's largest photographic and audio retailers, and users of computers for many years, Dixons Photographic UK Limited have typically looked at the future rather than the past.

In particular, they have looked for a computing capability that could efficiently handle the Company's growth until well into the 1980s and beyond.

Terry Pelham, Director of Administration and Finance, says "As leading retailers of precision equipment, we at Dixons are equally precise about our computing requirements. With the 2960 and ICL's applications expertise, Dixons have found the ideal combination to develop the business systems that will support the Company's future growth."



**International  
Computers**  
think computers - think ICL

## UK NEWS - LABOUR

### NUJ to seek extra help from printers

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL UNION of Journalists leaders will this week appeal to print union general secretaries to give more support to the strike by editorial staffs on provincial newspapers, now in its second week.

The print unions will be asked to join the Transport and General Workers' Union in instructing their members not to cross journalists' picket lines. In some areas, drivers, members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, are refusing to cross picket lines and the National Graphical Association has told its members to handle only material processed by editors.

As the NUT announced its efforts to gain increased print union support, it claimed that there were growing signs of newspaper managements getting ready to offer their staff more than the conditional 9 per cent

proposed by the Newspaper Society, the national organisation representing the provincial publishers.

Mr. Ken Ashton, NUT general secretary, said yesterday that journalists in the London office of the Birmingham Post and Mail had signed an agreement which would give most of them increases of £20 per week—the amount the union is seeking for all its 8,000 provincial members.

**Special case**

"We have evidence from all parts of the country of companies ready to offer more than the Newspaper Society's proposed £8 a week increase. But they must persuade the Newspaper Society to come back and negotiate realistically. We are not going in for local settlements," said Mr. Ashton.

The Newspaper Society has said it is prepared to pay in-

creases worth about 9 per cent, but only if the Government agrees to make provincial journalists a special case under pay policy.

A written submission on the special case argument is expected to be made by the society to Mr. Albert Booth, Employment Secretary, this week.

The NUT said that the strike stopped publication of sports editions of provincial evening newspapers in 25 towns on Saturday. "This is the most crippling blow we have yet inflicted during the strike," said Mr. Ashton. Saturday sports papers were, in many cases, the best selling editions of evening papers in the provinces.

The union is not paying official strike pay to the provincial strikers, but will today be making payments of £20,000 to needy cases from a hardship fund.

### Bakers' pay vote expected today

THE RESULTS of branch ballots on whether to call off the five-week bread strike are expected to be known today.

Members of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union are voting on an offer worth just over 14 per cent. It was made during three days' talks with employers at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service last week.

The union executive is putting the offer without any recommendation, and there are indications of split voting around the country.

In Liverpool, for instance, two of the three large bakeries involved in the action—Scott's and Mother's Pride—voted to continue the strike unless directed otherwise by the union. But the third, Cousins, decided to return for last night's shift.

The strike began after the union rejected a pay and productivity offer worth 11 per cent from the Federation of Bakers. The workers wanted a 26 per cent rise.

Whenever the action is called off, there is certain to be bitterness towards union members who have already returned to work and helped employers maintain a substantial proportion of bread supplies in spite of the strike.

### Engineers' pay settlements 'average 15%

By Our Labour Correspondent

PAY SETTLEMENTS for white collar engineering workers were averaging 15 per cent in spite of the Government's 5 per cent policy, Mr. Ken Gill, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, claimed yesterday.

Mr. Gill, general secretary of TASS, the union's white collar staff section, said on the London Weekend Television programme, *Weekend World*, that some settlements had "gone up beyond 20 per cent."

"I would be surprised if many general secretaries would be very pleased with themselves if they could report that the 5 per cent limit was being observed," said Mr. Gill, a Communist and staunch opponent of the pay restraint policy.

Achievement to the 5 per cent limit would suggest that the union was not properly serving its members. "I think that, as a round average, we're knocking about 14 or 15 per cent."

### Pitmen become safety guards

ABOUT 200 pitmen in north Nottinghamshire have been enlisted as safety watchdogs in the area's 15 collieries.

The National Coal Board said yesterday that under the new health and safety regulation, they have become part-time special inspectors with the job of making regular probes into their pits to pinpoint any hazards and suggest improvements. An official said: "Now there will be more pairs of eyes keeping a look out for safety and it is one subject where you can never have too many."

### Pay pact with TUC 'would not maintain differentials'

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE PROPOSED pay policy agreement between the Government and TUC was rejected by the TUC General Council which would have done nothing to help maintain or restore differentials, Mr. John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, said yesterday.

"Once again it concentrated on the subject of low pay to the exclusion of differentials, a distortion which continually and repeatedly causes endless trouble in industry," Mr. Lyons writes in the journal of his union, the Electrical Power Engineers Association.

It was necessary for the low pay and differentials issues to be

dealt with together. The TUC annual Congress at Brighton in September had passed a resolution which specifically recognised the need for the restoration where appropriate of eroded differentials.

This was not the first time the General Council had ignored the question "notwithstanding Congress resolutions to the contrary."

In recent years the TUC had consistently refused to do or say anything meaningful about differentials in pay discussions with the Government. The pay policies of 1976 and 1977 took advantage of the country's economic difficulties to try to bring about a reduction in differentials.

"There is absolutely no question, therefore, that TUC pay policy is one-sided."

"The interests of millions of members of the TUC who entered industry and belong to unions on the basis that they would be reasonably rewarded for training or knowledge, or the acceptance of higher responsibility, or the exercise of skills, are not being adequately represented."

It was "simply not acceptable that their interests continued to be overridden year after year," Mr. Lyons said.

### Boilermakers' leaders continue link talks

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE BOILERMAKERS' Society leadership is continuing with discussions on a possible amalgamation with the General and Municipal Workers' Union—in spite of the idea being rejected by delegates to their conference earlier this year.

In a progress report on events since the Tenby conference, Mr. John Chalmers, the general secretary, says the municipal workers' proposals for a new union might not be "bettered by any other propositions that may come along."

He says the union would,

therefore, "continue in our inquiries with the GMWU" simultaneously with approaches which had been made by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The engineering workers would very much like a merger with the boilermakers, one of the premier craft unions, and approaches have been made by both its engineering and construction sections.

There is no doubt that the boilermakers were more attracted to a merger with the GMWU, in which they would have formed the basis of a skilled workers' organisation, than with the AUEW. Their delegates, however, were reluctant to merge the craft identity of the organisation with a general union.

Mr. Chalmers says in his report that a meeting of district delegates last month also suggested that the boilermakers should consider approaches to the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union and the Society of Metal Mechanics.

### CONTRACTS

TWO COMPUTERS believed to be worth more than £5m, have been ordered from INTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS for the Department of Health and Social Security in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Model 2860 machines, they will be used to process national insurance contribution records for 45m people, and will provide an information service to local offices for the payment of benefits.

**PD POLLUTION CONTROL**, part of the Powell Duffryn Group, have a total of more than £300,000-worth of contracts which feature lightweight materials in sewage treatment equipment. Both Wessex and Anglian Water Authorities and Hailam Fields Water Reclamation Works have specified equipment of this type.

To the Holders of  
NATIONAL RAILROAD  
COMPANY OF MEXICO

Prior Lien 4155 Gold Bonds  
Dated March 15, 1965

Notice to Bondholders given that on and after December 15, 1978, the undersigned, as Trustee under the Prior Lien Mortgage of National Railroad Company of Mexico, dated March 15, 1965, will distribute an amount equal to 1% of the principal amount of said Bonds, on account of the interest accrued and unpaid on said Bonds as of December 15, 1978, from funds received on underlying collateral securities.

In respect of Bonds which have been assigned to the Office of the United States of Mexico made pursuant to Mexico's Agreement with the International Committee of Bankers on Mexico dated February 29, 1964, the amount of such distribution will be paid to The Chase Manhattan Bank, Successor Fiscal Agent of Mexico, in accordance with the Assignments provided for in Article 12 of said agreement; and distribution will not be made to the holders of such assigned Bonds.

Holders of non-assessable Bonds may receive such distribution by presenting their Bonds for notation of such payment thereon at the Corporate Trust office of the undersigned, Four New York Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10018, accompanied by a letter of transmittal in form available upon request at such office and, in the case of foreign holders, accompanied by appropriate certificate of "U.S. Treasury Department Form 1041".

Undistributed funds are also available from the following prior distributions:

1% Payment December 14, 1965  
1% Payment September 19, 1965  
1% Payment December 28, 1965  
3 1/2% Payment April 28, 1967  
1% Payment April 28, 1967  
1% Payment April 28, 1967  
1 1/2% Payment April 1, 1973  
3 1/2% Payment April 1, 1977

Bonds not having indicated receipt of these previous payments on account of interest should also be presented with appropriate transmittal letters, available upon request at the above-mentioned office of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company.

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST COMPANY,  
as Trustee as above said,  
Four New York Plaza,  
New York, N.Y. 10018  
Dated: December 11, 1978

### LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
Barnsley Metro. (0236 263222)	11 1/2	1-year	250	3-7
Barking (01-592 43001)	11 1/2	1-year	1,000	4-6
Barking (01-592 43001)	12 1/2	1-year	5,000	4-6
East Lindsey (0507 8801)	12 1/2	1-year	2,000	3
Knowsley (051 548 8555)	12 1/2	1-year	1,000	6-10
Manchester (061 236 3377)	12 1/2	1-year	500	5
Poole (02013 5151)	11 1/2	1-year	500	2-3
Poole (02013 5151)	12 1/2	1-year	500	6-7
Poole (02013 5151)	12 1/2	1-year	500	5
Redbridge (01-478 3030)	12 1/2	1-year	200	4-5
Sefton (051 922 4940)	12 1/2	1-year	2,000	2-5
Wrexham (0982 505031)	12 1/2	yearly	1,000	6-10

## Cawoods

Interim Results

Chairman Edward Binks reports:

- Group turnover £105 m.
- Group pre-tax profit up by 22% at £3,543 m.
- Profit available to shareholders £1,517 m.
- The second half has started well and another good year's result is expected.

### Summary of Results

	Half year to 30th September 1978	Half year to 30th September 1977	Year to 31st March 1978
Turnover	£'000 105,202	£'000 102,043	£'000 223,805
Profit before taxation	3,543	2,909	7,757
Profit after taxation	1,657	1,359	3,656
Earnings per ordinary share	6.84p	5.66p	15.19p
Interim dividend per ordinary share	1.086p	0.873p	3.811p



Cawoods Holdings Limited, Southlands,  
Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 2HY.

Fuel Distribution, Building and Road Materials,  
Quarries, Ready Mixed Concrete, Refractories,  
Container Shipping, Packaging, Computer Services.







# Building and Civil Engineering

## £17m contracts awarded to French Kier

THREE contracts adding up to a massive £17m have been won by French Kier Construction. The first for just under £10m has been awarded by the Essex River Division of the Anglian Water Authority and is for floodwalls.

Floodwalls under this contract are designed to prevent flooding and resist a 1:1,000 years return surge in the Thames under the conditions anticipated in AD2030. Contract specifications consist of the construction of that part of the defences which lies along the frontage between Shell Haven and Fobbing Horse, including the Mobil Oil Refinery frontage.

Other tasks involved include a reinforced concrete floodwall about 2,000 metres length founded upon the existing bank of the River Thames between Barking Creek and embankment, comprising approximately 8,000 cubic metres of concrete, together with about 130,000 cubic metres of landward fill.

A steel sheet pile floodwall clad with reinforced concrete, about 4,000 metres length, driven to depths up to 21 metres and comprising approximately 10,000 tonnes of piles and 7,500 cubic metres of concrete, is specified. The second contract, worth £7.1m has been awarded to French Kier Construction by E.F.G.H. for servicemen's houses in East Anglia. The work comprises the construction of 425 houses for use by servicemen based at the United States Air Force bases at Lakenheath and Mildenhall. The houses will be at Newmarket and Soham, and will utilise the frameform system of construction.

## £6m for Mears

TWO NEW roll on/roll off berths are to be built in Dover's eastern docks by Mears Construction under an award valued at £6m. The site is that of the old hoverport built by Mears in 1969 and now superseded by the new international hoverport recently completed by the company.

The new contract requires the reclamation of 25,000 square metres of land from the sea and the construction of two new piers in addition to the portal dolphins with associated approach ramps and bridges.

## Shepherd gets three jobs

THREE DESIGN and build contracts together worth nearly £3m have gone to Shepherd Building Services.

Biggest is a £1,560,000 project at Chelmsford, where the company is putting up a new depot for Rowntree Mackintosh on the site of the old rail goods section. The development covers more than 7,300 square metres on a 3.8 acre site and includes a warehouse with rail bay, a plant room complex for sub-station air conditioning and sprinkler pump house, two-storey offices and works amenities and a vehicle maintenance depot. Completion is for next August.

Also for Rowntree Mackintosh, Shepherd will design and construct a new factory, offices and car park on the Grange Estate Industrial Estate near Girvan, a contract worth nearly £1.3m. This plant will manufacture chocolate crumb, vital ingredient for the production of milk chocolate.

Contractors are aiming to finish the advance work in time to allow plant installation to be started by May, next year. Under the third scheme Shepherd will extend a building originally designed and constructed by it last year at the Firth Road, Lincoln, premises of the Ruston Car Turbines, part of the GEC group. The £186,000 contract involves the provision of a further six testing and development bays of two-storey construction and is due for completion in March.

Largest of the two housing

## Wimpey's £7m at home

IN A series of contracts for office buildings and factories, Wimpey has recently won work worth over £7m.

Largest of the group is the £2.7m job to contract a new four-storey office block for Kent County Council, the block to an existing warehouse and convert that into offices.

The block will be a four-storey steel frame structure built in the Conder Kingsway dry envelope system.

Welsh Development Agency construction of steel framed high bay warehouse at King's Drive, Cwmbran, Swindon, for the construction of 12 advance factories at Splott, Cardiff. Two further contracts, each worth about £1m, are for the construction of a new building for the Salford Yorkshire Water Authority, and the Michelin Tyre Company near Aberdeen.

## Protection of steel

BY THE end of 1979, 3m litres of paint will have been used to protect the structural steelwork in the new £250m aluminium smelter complex at present under construction in Dubai.

The £300,000 contract to supply the paint and supervise all sub-contract painting by UK and Continental steel fabricators has been won by the recently formed Protective Coatings Division of International Paint, London.

## Moving with the times

HIGGS AND HILL has started a campaign to step up its volume of management contracting work, now accounting for around 25 per cent of its building divisions turnover.

Substantial savings, it says, can be achieved by pre-planning, co-ordination of the activities to be carried out on site and from the contractor working in the closest liaison with the client and consultants.

Mr. Brian Hill, managing director of the £100m a year construction group, says the launching of the new initiative is timely in that clients and the construction industry itself are fast realising that the traditional methods of operating are not necessarily appropriate or economic in time or cost.

Higgs and Hill, which points to the recently completed Bank of America building in London as a good example of the management contract site during the period from approach, says the early development of a contractors' management skills can go a long way towards overcoming the problems of

## Compact compressors

COMPAIR is launching two improved BroomWade RA packaged compressors. Both new models, the RA60 and RA75 air cooled units, are physically smaller than their predecessors, occupying some 28 per cent less floor space, yet output and performance remains at the same level—108 and 130 litres/sec (230 and 275 cfm) at 7 bar (100 psig) respectively. Low and high pressure variants of both these units are available.

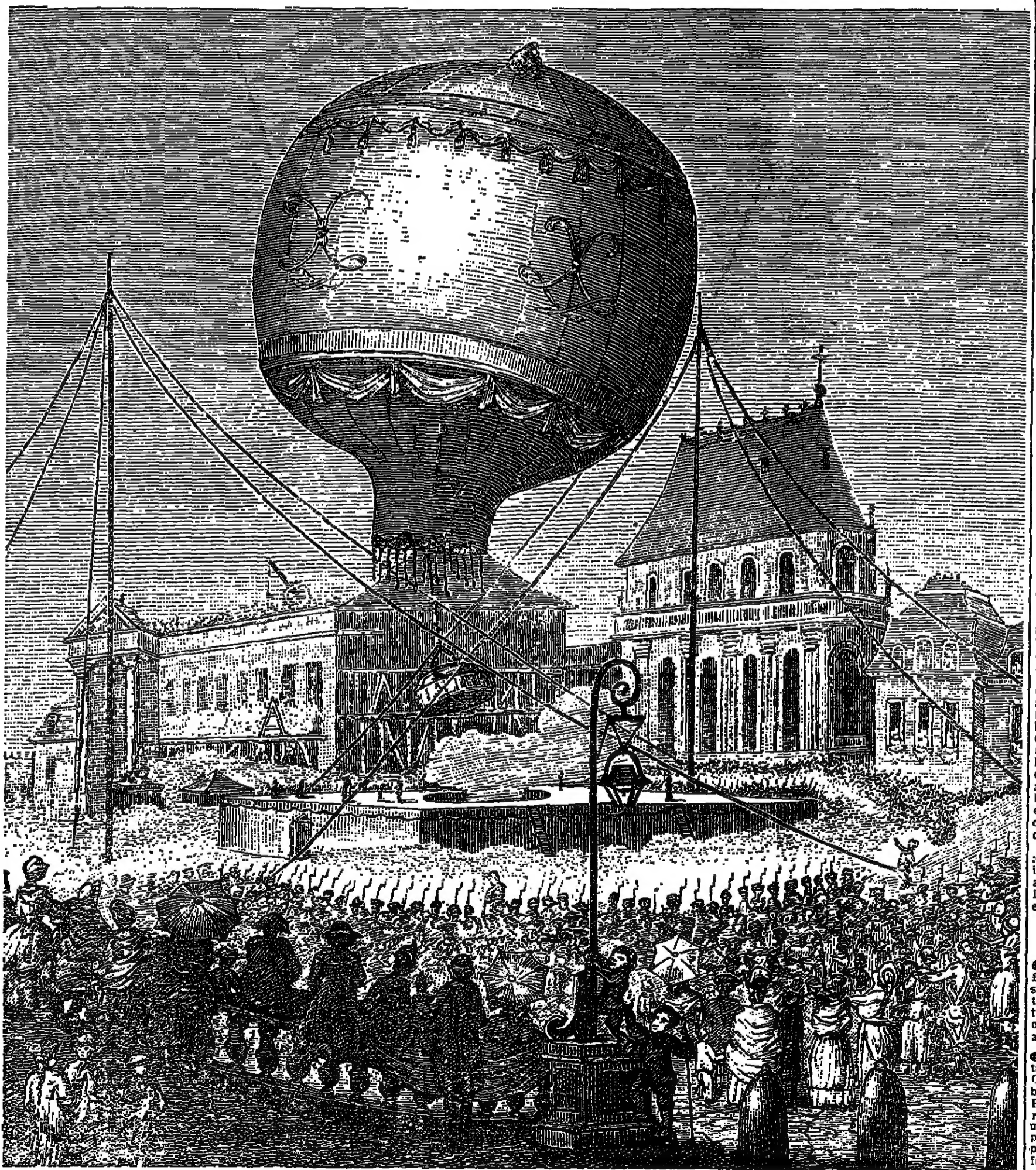
Compair Industrial, BOB7, BroomWade Works, High Wycombe, Bucks. 6494 2451.

## No mortar on the roof

WITH THE development of a mechanical fixing in certain new dry ridge system to partner conditions, its existing dry verge, Redland Roof Tiles, of Reigate, Surrey, claims to have finally evolved the completely dry—mortarless—pitched, tiled roof.

The company says its dry ridge top courses of tiles and to provide a sealing for the ridge tile, is a cross-sectional seal to water up to 40 per cent quicker to lay proof the butt joints between a conventional mortared ridges; and metal straps to secure a false ridge tree to the ridge.

The ridge is the most exposed part of the roof and requires frequent maintenance checks. The filler units also ensure a uniform appearance to all ridges and the roof is more able to flex with thermal and building movements. Mortar for use with Stonewold and tends to crack and shrink and Regent roof tile profiles. A this year's new British Standard, blocked end ridge tile is available BS 5534 in any case calls for able to finish the gable end.



Before the Montgolfiers had lift off Trollope and Colls were launched.

Trollope & Colls  
City Builders  
for 200 years  
1778-1978

مكزامن الأصل

## Bison's new flooring approach

THIS MONTH, the last of 27 bungalows, 33 two-storey houses and a two-storey block of community rooms will be handed over to Chester-le-Street District Council. The structures are unique in Britain in having pre-stressed, precast concrete floors, the first occasion on which this form of floor construction has been used for the ground floors of houses. They were installed by Bison Concrete (Northern).

In the bungalows, 12 flooring units per floor, each 150mm thick by 1200mm wide in pre-stressed concrete, are used. In the two-storey houses and the communal block, there are six flooring units, each 200mm thick by 1200mm wide. All units are six metres long. A self-levelling screed 4mm thick forms the top surface of the floors.

## Locating uranium sources

EUROPEAN office of Essex Minerals Company (a subsidiary of U.S. Steel Corporation), 368 Avenue Louise, Brussels, has taken three months to compile the have collaborated to prepare a vast amount of data accumulated uranium potential study of over a period of three or four years by Essex Minerals.

Six favourable uranium bearing zones were discovered and one of these is now being explored by Essex.

## A pick-and-carry crane

A SIMPLE cantilever jib which can be extended with a further section to give a maximum jib length of 12.2 metres is incorporated in a mobile, diesel-mechanical yard crane called the Jones 195, introduced by Jones Cranes of Letchworth (a member company of the 600 Group, Wood Lane, London, W12 0L743 2070).

It can perform pick-and-carry duties with loads up to 11 tonnes slung from a 9.1 metre jib at three-metre radius (UK ratings). The crane is powered by a Perkins water-cooled diesel engine developing 62 bhp, at 1,800 rpm, which provides more than adequate performance for normal yard operations, says the company.

## Aid to crane safety

LOADWATCHER, the latest design of safe load indicator for cranes from Wylie, gives the operator a clear and continuous picture of his margin of safety and also indicates the load on the hook and other important data such as permitted load, radius and swing angle. Two measurements are made by the equipment. A cam box associated with the motions of the crane provides maximum load data at the jib or jibs are extended, regardless of the number of falls on the hoist line. At the same time a dynamometer in the line yields a reading of the actual load being lifted. The two are electrically compared in the control/display box in the driver's cab.

The equipment will follow any load/radius curve, switched in automatically or manually by a switch on the display panel. In telescopic cranes for example, Loadwatcher will select different load curves at different boom lengths, regardless of whether the duty is angle related, radius related or radius/extension related.

The displays have been made particularly easy to read and understand; they might include analogue meter readings of effective boom radius, permitted load and actual load, together with illuminated pictorial warnings of excessive load (either with regard to crane stability or line tension), how many falls are in use, and whether with main boom or fly jib. Account can be taken of operation of the crane on sloping ground.

The equipment has been designed to comply with all the European safety standards, particularly the Dutch and French.

More from Wylie Safe Load Indicators, Menzies Road, Hastings, Sussex TN34 1XD (0424 421235).

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## IN BRIEF

● Contracts worth more than £1m have gone to Tarmac Construction's Leeds-based organisation. The biggest jobs are in the Leeds area and involve two office blocks and three new advance factory units.

● The construction of a planetarium for the University of Garmis at Benghazi has just begun. G. H. Buckle and Partners consulting engineers, is responsible for the electrical and mechanical services in the first phases of the university building programme, and was retained for the heating, cooling and ventilation as well as the electrical and other normal building services.

● The London Boroughs of Camden and Wandsworth have placed orders worth more than £110,000 with Market Harborough Joinery Co., for Skansen high performance timber windows.

● An export order worth more than £200,000, has been awarded to William Lee Malleable of Dronfield, near Sheffield, by the Swedish railway authorities for 350,000 malleable iron shoulder castings for the Pandrol rail fixing system.

● James Clark and Eaton has won a contract worth £22,000 for the design, supply and installation of glass units at the University of Petroleum and Minerals, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The order is for glazing about 200 tons of glass, including 12mm toughened anti-sun

bronze glass, 6mm clear float glass and double glazed units. ● Sheltered homes for the elderly in Aylesbury and a factory unit in Northampton are to be built by the south east Midlands region of John Laing under two contracts together worth more than £200,000.

**ESPLEY-TYAS**  
CONSTRUCTION GROUP  
P.O. Box No. 6, Park Hall,  
Salford Priors, Evesham,  
Worcestershire  
Tel. Bidford-on-Avon  
3721 (20 lines)  
STD (078 988) 3721

## Espley-Tyas awards

THE LARGEST of contracts totalling £2.9m recently won by Espley-Tyas Group is the £1.1m new Magistrates Court house and probation suite for the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull.

Two contracts, awarded by the Department of the Environment, are £90,000 for improvements at 24 central work shops, REME, COD Donnington; and £455,000 for eight two-storey residential blocks at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

Alterations and extensions to shop premises for Boots, the Chemist in Crickdale, Street, Cirencester, make up a £330,000 contract.

## Rice project in Tanzania

THE NATIONAL Agricultural and Food Corporation of Tanzania has appointed Rote Kennard and Lapworth, consulting engineers of Sutton, Surrey, to review the design, prepare tender documents and supervise the construction of an irrigated rice project in Tanzania.

The irrigable area of about 2,700 hectares will be supplied from a pumping station on the Wami river. The works will include land and drainage, drains, roads, land levelling, rice mill, and other ancillary works.

Rote, Kennard and Lapworth are associated in this project with Landwatt Consultants and Ron Hawkey Partners. Construction is planned to start in 1979.

## Will clear the pipes

A HIGH pressure water jetting trailer is being marketed by Wards Flexible Ropes Company, 10 Cleave Avenue, Farnborough, Kent BR8 7RB.

It is designed to clear pipes up to 250 mm in diameter. Constant high volume jetting, without misting, is achieved by specially designed nozzle jets and a piston pump instead of the more conventionally used diaphragm type pump.

The pump is a three piston Triplex type and is said to even out pulsation to a negligible degree and give a high flow, but at a lower pressure than other machines, thus offering more cleaning power.

Rior BV of Goirle in the Netherlands makes the HD50.

The importance of the contract far outweighs its value of £25,000, since it should be seen as a pioneering project spurred by the current high cost of a traditional alternative.

More from Wylie Safe Load Indicators, Menzies Road, Hastings, Sussex TN34 1XD (0424 421235).

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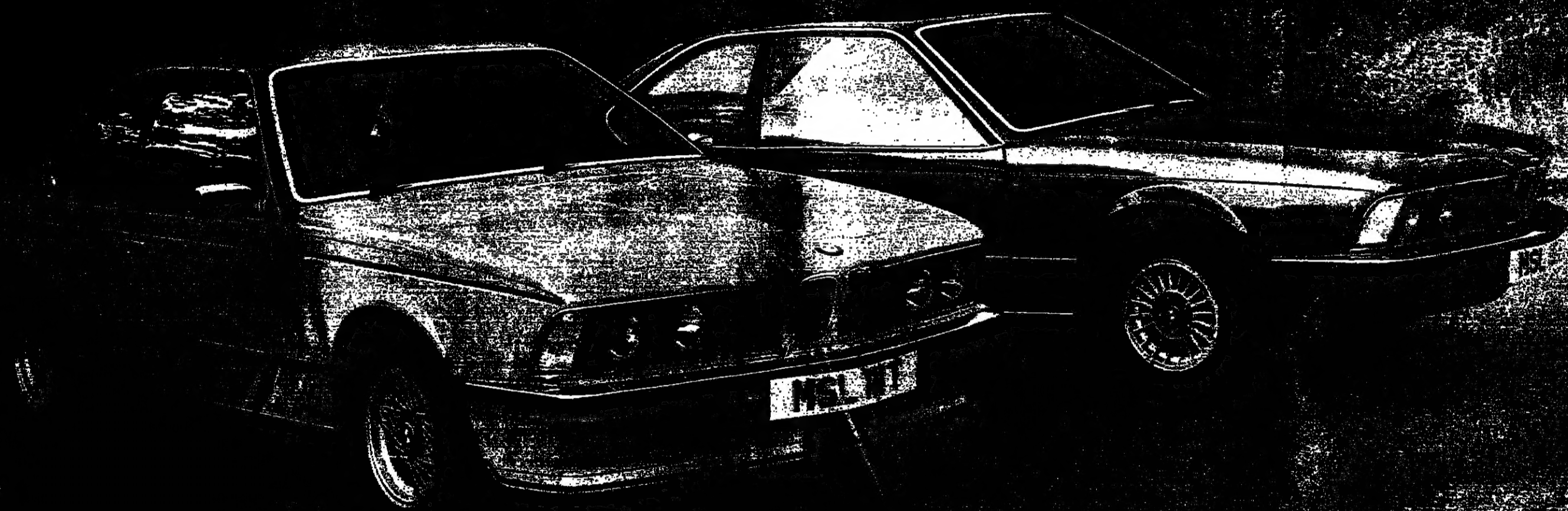
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# The new BMW 6 Series range.



## The choice isn't necessarily automatic.

For those who wish to enjoy the most civilised and powerful motoring BMW offer a new Coupé, the 635CSi. Together with the established 633CSi, these BMW Coupés offer the driver two brilliant and dynamic alternatives. Which one you choose is a question of taste.

The automatic choice is the BMW 633CSi with its ZF 3-speed automatic transmission. Power is from a 3.3 litre, six cylinder, fuel injected engine. Maximum speed is in excess of 130mph, but this, for obvious reasons, is largely unimportant. What is so pleasing about the 633CSi Coupé is the way it behaves when you drive it, the feeling of pleasure it gives. With its true four-seat capacity, its standard option of leather or velours upholstery and its feeling of refined purpose the 633CSi is one of the most civilised Coupés you can have.

The new BMW 635CSi offers something extra in sheer performance terms. Its engine is larger, 3.5 litres. It produces 218bhp and has a top speed of 140mph. 0-60mph time is 7.3 seconds and the suspension is uprated. The graphite, henna and polaris models come with front and rear aerodynamic spoilers whilst all other colour variations come with standard exterior trim. Moreover, the 635 offers you the delights of an engine of incredible torque

and power matched to a five speed gearbox. Luxury refinements remain the same as the 633.

So the choice between the two BMW Coupés is not simply automatic. May we suggest you try them both so you can determine precisely what balance of civilised performance pleases you most.

### Specification Resumé.

#### BMW 633CSi Coupé (Automatic).

Engine: 3210cc, six cylinder, fuel injected producing 200bhp. Automatic transmission. Performance: Maximum speed 134mph. 0-60 in 10.1 secs.

Price: £15,379

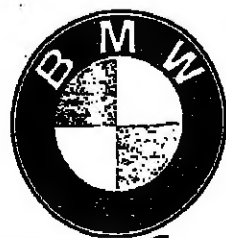
#### BMW 635CSi Coupé.

Engine: 3453cc, six cylinder, fuel injected producing 218bhp. 5-speed gearbox. Performance: Maximum speed 140mph. 0-60 in 7.3 secs.

Price: £16,499

(Prices correct at time of going to press. Source of figures, BMW.)

**Leasing:** In today's financial conditions, leasing a BMW can create substantial advantages. Your local BMW Centre will be happy to put you in touch with expert advisors on leasing who can describe the schemes in detail.



## For the joy of motoring.

BMW Concessionaires (GB) Ltd., 991 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. 01-568 9155. Export, NATO & Diplomatic: 56 Park Lane, London W1 01-629 9277.







# THE EXECUTIVE'S and OFFICE WORLD

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Geoffrey Owen examines IBH, the fast-growing construction equipment group built up by a 'company doctor'

## German earthmover digs its foundations in Europe



Horst-Dieter Esch and one of his new machines, the ZD 3000 dozer

CAN A 35-year-old German owner-manager, who founded his company only three years ago, hold his own in an industry dominated by large American corporations, all prepared to spend millions of dollars to expand their market share?

Horst-Dieter Esch, president of IBH, a fast-growing group of construction equipment companies, thinks he can. He believes it will be a disaster for Europe if American domination in this sector goes any further. Not only will European governments lose control over the supply of public works equipment, but the Americans, Esch suggests, usually make a mess of the European companies which they do take over.

Although he would not put it quite so grandly, his company offers a European solution to the problems of European construction equipment makers.

Other European entrepreneurs have built up sizeable businesses in this field, like Joseph Bamford in Britain, Hans Liebherr in Germany and Pierre Bataille in France. But these three companies (the last of which has moved into the American orbit, being effectively controlled by Tenneco-Case), started by designing and manufacturing their own machines; then they extended the range mainly by internal development.

Esch has followed the quite different policy of buying companies (most of them in financial difficulty) with an established product. He has already bought half-a-dozen such firms in Germany and France—the latest was announced last week—and he has his eyes on the UK. Next year IBH expects to do a turnover of DM 400m (£106m), with 3,300 employees.

### Beatable

Five years ago Esch was running the Continental operations of Blackwood Hodge, the UK-based distributor of earthmoving equipment. The German industry was in the throes of the worst depression since the war. Companies which for years had been able to sell anything they could make suddenly found their weaknesses exposed. Most of them, Esch says, "had gone two product sizes too far: they had built successful small and medium-sized machines, then decided that Caterpillar was beatable."

But the recession was not going to last for ever. Esch reckoned that if he could get control of companies with a really strong product line and inject management and financial resources into them, he should be able to create a viable group of his own. (He had built up a chain of regional dealers in Germany; most of them at the University of California and had experience

of the North American construction equipment business before returning to Germany.)

In mid-1975 he left Blackwood Hodge and started IBH Holding AG with a capital of DM 10m. It is privately held and Esch is the majority shareholder; his headquarters is in Mainz. He then negotiated with a banking group and the state government of Rheinland-Pfalz to take over Zettelmeyer, an old-established family company which was a leading producer of small front-end loaders; it also made compaction equipment. It was losing money, but was strong in product and technical terms; it had recently introduced a range of hydraulic wheel loaders which Esch thought had "tremendous potential."

In the next six months he acquired two more German companies making road rollers and heavy compaction equipment, again a technical leader in its field and about half the size of Zettelmeyer. The other, Duomat, a specialist in hand-guided vibratory rollers and plates widely used for building and repair work, was not in financial trouble, but the owner had fallen ill and wished to sell.

These purchases gave Esch a broad line of equipment in a sector of the market which had better recovery prospects than the heavy end of the industry: large civil engineering and highway projects were extremely scarce.

But the companies were "losing money madly; we didn't know on the 25th of the month how we were going to pay the salaries on the 28th." He laid off over 200 people; at the three companies, bringing the numbers down to just over 800. He stopped manufacturing of compaction equipment at Zettelmeyer and replaced most of the senior management. He reorganised the dealer network and discontinued direct sales from the factory.

"My background with Blackwood Hodge was a help," he injects management and financial resources into them, he should be able to create a viable group of his own. (He had built up a chain of regional dealers in Germany; most of them at the University of California and had experience

A crucial decision, though it did not appear so at the time, was to allow Zettelmeyer to compete for a new German Army requirement for a high-speed wheel dozer. This machine, the ZD 3000, was designed from the ground up, and, perhaps because other companies were offering modified versions of their existing dozers, won valuable contracts from both the German and French armies.

Zettelmeyer now has orders worth DM 200m for this machine, giving additional stability to the business. It also provides a useful demonstration of Zettelmeyer's technical competence.

By the end of 1977 the German companies were making money and Esch was ready for further expansion, especially outside Germany. Duomat and to a lesser extent Zettelmeyer were exporting to France, but a local manufacturing base was needed if IBH was to make a major impact on the market.

During 1978 he has made three acquisitions in France, of which the first was Derruppe, a subsidiary of Poclain, making small loaders and compaction equipment. Then came Maco Meudon, a manufacturer of air compressors, and within the last few weeks Manubet-Pingon, making specialised hydraulic excavators for mining and tunnelling applications.

The French construction equipment industry is in a deep recession, but Esch expects to get the three companies into shape during 1979 and start making profits in 1980—when demand should be picking up. The products of the acquired companies, together with the German-made machines, represent a package which should attract capable dealers wholly or largely committed to IBH.

### Fragmented

Esch had intended to start looking seriously at the UK in about a year's time, but inevitably news of his willingness to buy has brought plenty of offers.

The British-owned construction equipment industry is as fragmented as in France and Germany. It includes some subsidiaries of much larger engineering groups (like Avon Barford in BL and Hymac in Powell Duffryn) and a sprinkling of family-owned companies—of which the largest is J. C. Bamford.

Quite apart from potential sellers in the UK and on the Continent, it is always possible that one of the North American companies will get disenchanted with the construction equip-

customer, "you've got to use the resources which exist there and show that you're making a contribution to the local economy."

3—Don't try to run everything from the centre. In France Esch is setting up a small IBH holding company in Lyon which, as in Germany, will have a management services staff of 10-20, while the operating companies remain responsible for designing, making and selling their products. This does not preclude rationalisation between factories; one of the Zettelmeyer loaders is being made by Derruppe, thus freeing capacity in Germany.

4—Don't take on the giants at their own game. Esch would not contemplate, for instance, competing against Caterpillar, Komatsu and Fiat-Allis in crawler tractors, and he has tended to look for specialised sectors of the business. As he gets bigger, the extent of overlap with the giants is bound to increase. But before plunging into, say, conventional hydraulic excavators, he would want to acquire a European company with a strong product and market position.

The obvious risk is that Esch will be tempted to take on something too big or that one of the acquired companies will go sour. He himself claims not to be going too fast. It is quite feasible, he thinks, to get the three French companies into shape during 1979 and then he will be ready for more.

Like Heinz Nixdorf, the German computer maker who recently had abortive merger talks with Volkswagen, he is determined to keep personal control of his company; he does not think this will impose any financial constraints on growth. If necessary, IBH could possibly follow Nixdorf's example and arrange for a bank to subscribe additional equity capital, while retaining the option to buy back the shares at a later date.

Esch argues that construction equipment is a very personal business. Customers like to know who the owner is; that is an advantage which the owner-manager, with his personal commitment to the industry has over the faceless American corporation which may derive only a small part of its total revenue from construction equipment.

With 30 years to go before retirement Esch has plenty of time in which to impress his personality on the European scene.

### EXECUTIVE HEALTH

## How not to eat a business lunch

BY DR. DAVID CARRICK

RECENTLY I was taken to lunch at a restaurant which is becoming increasingly popular, partly because it is attracting the famous and infamous and partly because of the generosity of the portions of food. I believe the fare is also excellent, but I have little recollection because I was engrossed in the behaviour of a couple who sat nearby.

My journalist companion had warned me, with delicious zeal, that they represented "copy" because one was a "captain of industry" while the other was a prominent trades union man. They were, so I was led to believe, fierce opponents in public and my companion looked forward to a pyrotechnical display of opposite views.

The giant meal had not been conducted in silence. Various noises were emitted including conversation. Not a word was spoken on politics but each glutton expatiated (between the portions of food, I guess) on his bodily functions. One explained how careful he had to be with his diet: "Dicky heart, you see," he grunted, "Doc says I've got to take things easily. Touch of the old diabetes too, but these modern pills are marvellous. Should take more exercise but I've done my back in—old war injury—and I'm getting a bit short of breath."

### Toddle back

The other, munching away steadily, nodded until his companion's mouth was full, then launched forth about his own ill-health. "Trouble's me chest. Silicosis I dare say. All right if I use this inhaler. But cough! I am always at it! My back's bad too: from the mines, I should not wonder: sometimes I get quite stuck. And my poor old hips! Dear oh dear! Terrible they have been lately. Missed my jogging but I have allowed myself to be refused chins with instead: quite a sacrifice."

They commiserated sadly with each other before parting, the one to toddle back to his Health Farm and the other to a comfortable convalescent home, leaving me to wonder at the absurdity of their hypocrisy and self-deception.

Between their combined 40 odd stones, they had consumed roughly 8,000 calories during their "slimming" session. Small wonder, therefore, that they suffered from many of the disorders associated with or exacerbated by obesity. Five or six stone off each would have removed or alleviated most of these complaints. But they enjoyed their food and I only wish they had not protested was set before them, each of what they would not practise.

For the rest of you who are really trying to lose weight little pots from their pockets slowly and steadily, I wish you and, with enormous self-pride, well and hope that you let your popped a few saccharin tablets into the fluid.

For the rest of you who are really trying to lose weight little pots from their pockets slowly and steadily, I wish you and, with enormous self-pride, well and hope that you let your popped a few saccharin tablets into the fluid.

## Reliance Group... Third Quarter, Nine Months —Record Results Continue

	Quarter Ended Sept. 30		Nine Months Ended Sept. 30	
(In thousands, except per share amounts)	1978	1977	1978	1977
Revenues	\$331,479	\$304,035	\$938,021	\$847,555
Operating income before income taxes and minority interests	\$ 37,585	\$ 28,935	\$ 98,207	\$ 71,937
Provision for income taxes	(9,405)	(11,908)	(26,596)	(26,255)
Minority interests	(2,506)	(2,551)	(7,855)	(7,341)
Operating income	25,574	14,476	64,762	38,341
Net realized gain on insurance investments	117	933	2,223	3,742
Income before extraordinary income (loss)	25,691	15,409	66,985	42,083
Extraordinary income (loss)	(328)	7,720	2,848	23,164
Net income	\$ 25,363	\$ 23,129	\$ 69,833	\$ 65,247
Per-Share Information:				
Operating income	\$1.85	\$1.65	\$5.89	\$4.31
Net realized gain on insurance investments	.01	.12	.22	.49
Income before extraordinary income (loss)	1.86	1.77	6.11	4.80
Extraordinary income (loss)	(.02)	1.00	.28	3.03
Net income	\$1.84	\$2.77	\$6.39	\$7.83
Fully diluted net income*	\$1.73	\$1.64	\$5.06	\$4.58
Average number of common and common equivalent shares outstanding (in thousands)	12,908	7,696	10,112	7,639

\*Fully diluted net income per share is based on the assumption that the common shares issuable upon the exercise of all stock purchase warrants and stock options and the conversion of all convertible securities were outstanding since July 1 for each of the quarters and since January 1 for each of the nine-month periods and remained outstanding for the entire periods.

### Reliance Group, Incorporated Operations—Nine Months Ended Sept. 30, 1978

<b>INSURANCE</b>		<b>Property and Casualty Operations, U.S.</b>	
Revenues	\$794,261,000	Reliance Insurance Company, Philadelphia	
Divisional Pretax Operating Income	\$ 85,518,000	General Casualty Company of Wisconsin, Madison	
		United Pacific Insurance Company, Tacoma	
		<b>Property and Casualty Operations, International</b>	
		Pilot Insurance Company, Toronto	
		<b>Life and Health Operations, U.S.</b>	
		Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia	
		United Pacific Life Insurance Company, Tacoma	
		<b>Title Operations, U.S.</b>	
		Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company, Philadelphia	
<b>LEASING</b>		<b>Container Leasing Operations, Worldwide</b>	
Revenues	\$108,923,000	CTL—Container Transport International, Inc., New York	
Divisional Pretax Operating Income	\$ 27,051,000	Computer Leasing Operations, U.S.	
		Leasco Capital Equipment Corporation, New York	
		Computer Leasing Operations, International	
		Leasco Europa Ltd., New York	
<b>MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>		<b>Consulting Operations, U.S.</b>	
Revenues	\$ 28,405,000	Werner Associates, Inc., New York	
Divisional Pretax Operating Income	\$ 1,624,000	Yankelovich, Skelly and White, Inc., New York	
		<b>Consulting and Software Operations, International</b>	
		Inbucon Limited, London	
		Fuel & Energy Consultants Limited, London	
		Leasco Software Limited, Maidenhead	
		Moody International, Inc., London	
		Werner International, Brussels	

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## Chinook's big performance earns the biggest commercial helicopter order in history!

British Airways Helicopters has placed the first order for Boeing Chinooks. It's worth \$33 million, and it's the largest commercial order ever for helicopters.

The new Chinooks will carry passengers and cargo to oil fields in the North Sea. Building on the experience of 1.5 million military flight hours, the Commercial Chinook incorporates the latest technology for advanced performance, comfort and reliability.

With twice the range and three times the payload of the largest helicopter currently used in offshore oil operations, the Chinook moves 44 passen-

gers or 14 tons of cargo swiftly and surely. Its 600-mile range and 140-knot cruising speed bring even the most distant North Sea platforms within easy reach at a substantial saving in the cost of offshore transportation.

The Chinook's outstanding versatility and capability can also be put to work on demanding operations like logging, construction and remote resource development. When there's a big job to do, the big advantages are with the Chinook.

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## Mr. Vance's speech

RELATIONS BETWEEN the U.S. and western Europe are changing. They probably reached their low point in 1973 with the Middle East War and the oil embargo. Ever since then, however, there has been a steady improvement to the point where today relations are as good as ever. Yet there has also been a shift in the balance of power within the Atlantic Community. Western Europe today is more assertive in international diplomacy, and the U.S. more reticent than would have seemed likely only a few years ago.

The change has come about without any great Trans-Atlantic bickerings or rivalries. At the same time, there has been no sign that the rise of Western Europe and the relative decline of the U.S. have had any destabilising effect on relations between East and West. It is almost as if the aim, much canvassed during the Kennedy administration, of building the twin towers of the Western Alliance has been achieved nearly twenty years after it was first expressed.

It was broadly to this theme that Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State, addressed himself when he spoke to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London at the weekend. His speech was of note because it was the first time that a senior member of the Carter Administration had attempted to make a major policy statement on the specific question of European-American relations. Yet although Mr. Vance was perceptive enough in his analysis of the developments of the past few years, he left a number of question marks about the future which suggest that today's opportunities will not necessarily be fully exploited.

The Secretary of State's language about Europe was impeccably diplomatic. "A strong Europe," he said, "is good for a strong America." There were also references to Europe's assumption of growing responsibilities, as well as a carefully-phrased welcome for the beginnings of the European Monetary System. There was nothing to fault either in Mr. Vance's emphasis on what he called "the broadened international agenda." The items here include the changing patterns of international trade, future

energy requirements, nuclear proliferation, conventional arms control, and environmental protection.

Yet it is one thing to list the items and another to do something about them. Most of those subjects have dominated foreign policy seminars, especially in the U.S., for more than a decade. As problems for the future, they were foreseeable and foreseen. It is, of course, welcome that they should now be recognised by heads of Government, and it is no less welcome that there is now a wider official recognition of the interconnection between events in the economic and political fields. The weakness of the dollar, for example, could not go on indefinitely without having a corresponding effect on American power, though it took some years for that fact to be generally accepted.

At the same time, however, it is hard altogether to avoid suspicion that the Americans have come to feel virtuous merely because they have acknowledged the problems, and that the Europeans have come to feel mature merely because the Americans have become less confident. That is a quite different matter from reaching solutions. Indeed, it makes the present relative harmony in the Atlantic Community seem almost fortuitous.

## Opportunities

The fact is that this coincidence of events has brought about quite remarkable opportunities. It is indicative of the improvement in US-European relations that the Carter Administration has been able to involve itself so deeply in the Middle East without running into European sniping. But there is also a chance—not yet taken—to reform the international monetary system in a way that would take some of the burden off the dollar. There is a chance, too, to complete the North-South dialogue on trade with developing countries. In much of the rest of the world today, the situation is fluid. In the Atlantic Community, it is ripe for co-operation. But to achieve it will require more than rhetoric and more than good intentions. Mr. Vance's speech was strong on the latter. It has yet to be seen whether either Europe or America is ready to put them into practice.

## Criteria for intervention

MINISTERS AND civil servants have often been tempted by the idea of picking out certain industries as likely "winners" in international trade. The notion is that in, say, diesel engines or construction equipment or office machinery British companies have achieved, or can be encouraged to achieve with appropriate support from public funds, a position of international leadership; the Government should do everything it can to build on these strong points, whether through intervention by the National Enterprise Board, preferential purchasing by state-owned corporations, or straight financial assistance. This selective approach has been tried in other countries, notably France.

The problem is that the criteria on which the selection should be based are extremely difficult to define. The difficulties are usefully illustrated in a report published today by the Sussex European Research Centre, which compares the structure and competitiveness of the engineering industries in Britain, France and Germany. The dominance of Germany in this field is well-known: in 1973 Germany accounted for 23 per cent of all OECD exports of engineering products, compared with 9.2 per cent for the U.K. and 8.3 per cent for France. But what is interesting is that Germany's superiority extends over virtually all engineering products and branches.

The industries of the three countries are similar to each other in composition, make-up of costs and pattern of factor inputs. The report concludes that the German industry cannot be said to have been successful by specialising in particularly favourable branches or product groups. The "structure" of the industry is no more conducive to competitiveness than that of Britain or France.

Branch by branch comparisons carried out by the authors have not unearthed any secret weapons for achieving success.

Indeed, they cast doubt on some of the often advocated ways of improving performance. While there appears to be a positive association in both Britain and Germany between high pay and trade performance (indicating the importance of human capital in competitiveness), there is no such relationship between investment and export success: by one test it is the less capital-intensive sectors in Britain which show a better trade performance. It is not the amount of investment, but the way in which the investment is used, which determines whether particular sectors and companies are successful in world markets.

In all three countries there is a positive correlation between the proportion of output exported and the extent of import penetration of the home market for the same general categories of products. This suggests a strong element of specialisation and intra-branch trade within the various branches of engineering which can be vital to their efficiency. The idea that an industry should be protected from import competition while it rebuilds its international competitiveness has always seemed dubious and this evidence reinforces the doubts. Import barriers, by reducing the spur of competition, may make it less likely that the hoped-for reconquest of the home market will be achieved.

## Middle ground

Most selective industrial policies take the form of stimulating the high-technology sectors and preserving the ones in decline. Since these two extremes are much the same in all the advanced countries, the efforts of each government are likely to be matched by its competitors and so in the end to be self-defeating. In engineering, as the Sussex study points out, most branches lie in the middle ground where it is much more difficult to formulate criteria for intervention.

If governments try to identify which particular engineering products have the best export prospects, they are almost certain to get it wrong.

INCONGRIOUS IN the muggy heat of the Ghanaian December, a tiny recording of Oh Come All Ye Faithful sounds out across an Accra department store and its pathetically empty shelves.

With inflation running in triple figures and with an acute shortage of all types of consumer goods, many Ghanaians have come to have as little faith in their military rulers of the past seven years as the Bank of Ghana has foreign exchange.

It is difficult to convince them that since last July the Government had embarked on a sensible course of corrective measures which, if they are followed through properly, might restore Ghana to economic health during the next 30 months to three years. People cannot wait that long.

The country's deep-seated economic discontent has been demonstrated most clearly in a wave of 80 strikes and lock-outs since last May, involving more than 70,000 workers. These culminated last month in a series of stoppages by civil servants and workers in essential services (Accra was without power for 36 hours) which forced the government to declare a state of emergency.

## Soldiers and politicians

It is against this inauspicious background that the military Government of Lt-Gen. Fred Akuffo is preparing to hand over power to a civilian administration next July.

It is hard to be sanguine about this operation. For one thing, it has been preceded by a running battle between the soldiers and Ghana's politicians and large professional elite about whether political parties should be allowed under the new system.

Right up until the week before last, the military was insisting that there must be no political parties. Instead, Gen. Akuffo proposed a "no party" interim National Government for at least the next four years, to see Ghana out of its economic mess. The politicians argued that this would simply not work, and they won the day. Gen. Akuffo then announced that the Government's ban on party politics—imposed when his predecessor, Gen. Ignatius Acheampong, overthrew the elected Busia Government in 1966—would be lifted from January 1.

But even within a party political framework, it is not easy to see a leader emerging in the next six months of the stature which may be demanded if this demoralised, drifting nation is to find its feet again.

Certainly, Ghanaians are well aware that a return to civilian rule, however welcome in itself, is no automatic panacea for the

country's economic and political ills. If anything, it will be harder for a civilian government to continue the harsh economic measures so necessary to restore balance.

Under the Akuffo Government there has been a very substantial improvement in Ghana's political and economic climate compared to last July, when Gen. Acheampong was forced to step down by his fellow officers. Gen. Acheampong has brought political tension to an intolerable pitch by his pursuit of the unpopular idea of "Union Government"—an alliance of the military, police and civilians. At the same time, his administration's increasingly unstable economic policies had contributed to a severe drop in living standards.

Admittedly, the 1973-74 oil price rise and two years of serious drought made the Acheampong Government's task very difficult, and in part explains why real GDP fell by 5 per cent a year in both 1973 and 1974 and has virtually stagnated since then. But the regime's policies aggravated its problems.

Gen. Acheampong refused to devalue Ghana's greatly overvalued currency, the cedi, which on the black market fetched less than a tenth of its official value by the time he fell. (His refusal to devalue was largely political, for in 1972 he had given a 44 per cent devaluation by the Busia Government as one of his main reasons for staging a coup.)

At the same time, deficit financing reached extraordinary proportions: in the 1977-78 financial year the budget deficit was more than cedi 2bn—roughly equal to expenditure for the previous year. The resultant recourse to the printing presses was a major factor in pushing the annual inflation rate towards 150 per cent.

## Realistic policy

Ghana's habitual balance of payments difficulties, stemming from a high import propensity, grew worse and worse. By the end of April, the country had accumulated short-term debt obligations estimated at cedi 403m. The pipeline for delayed payments for imports still stretches well back into 1977.

It was in June, just before Gen. Acheampong's fall, that the Government began to move hesitantly towards a more realistic economic policy, beginning a gradual downward adjustment of the cedi.

But it was only after Gen. Akuffo took over that a more thorough-going change was instituted: by August the Government had devalued by 58 per cent, compared to June and in September it brought in a neces-

By MARTIN DICKSON, Africa Correspondent



General Akuffo votes in the local elections last month. Restoring democracy at national level will be more difficult.

sarily harsh budget designed to slash the budget deficit back to Cedi 800m for 1978-79.

Last month Gen. Akuffo sternly held firm against the public sector strikes which, if they had achieved the workers' demands, would have substantially increased the deficit. Instead, the civil servants' strikes collapsed in the face of a Government ultimatum.

The Government is now negotiating with the IMF for drawings on its first and second standby credit tranches which are for a little over \$50m. Although the IMF is understood to feel the cedi is still overvalued, the Government hopes to reach an agreement with the Fund by the end of the month which will act as a catalyst in re-establishing Ghana's international credit-worthiness.

The Government has also begun investigating some of the maladministration and high level corruption which marked the Acheampong years, although cynics say that many of the big fish will escape.

An inquiry has been launched into the affairs of the Cocoa Marketing Board but it is far from clear whether this will shed any light on one of Ghana's biggest mysteries: what happened to its cocoa money. Why should it be that a time of record world prices in 1976 and 1977, the country should have still been suffering such severe foreign exchange problems?

This can be partially explained by the serious decline in Ghana's production of cocoa, which lies at the heart of the country's economic difficulties. Ghana produced a mere

263,000 tonnes last year—its lowest figure since the late 1950s. Poor prices for the farmers were only one of several reasons for the decline of the crop.

But in part the cocoa mystery can also be explained by smuggling of the crop across the borders to the Ivory Coast and Togo in search of convertible currency.

Yet substantial sums of money—running into tens of millions of Cedis—still seem to be unaccounted for. Could they have been spent on equipment for the army or silted away in Swiss bank accounts?

Politically, the Akuffo Government's record is more open to controversy, but it has brought in a series of measures which have undoubtedly helped to create a more conciliatory climate.

It has released all the 300 or more political detainees held by the Acheampong Government, a large proportion of whom were arrested after a controversial referendum on "Union Government" last March. It has also given the Ghanaian Press a very large measure of freedom.

In its and starts, the Government has also moved away from the "Union Government" concept. Instead, General Akuffo first proposed his "no party" interim National Government, which would hold power for at least four years pending a final decision on the system of government best suited for Ghana.

But the week before last he was forced to back down on this, partly because of persistent civilian demands for a party political system and partly

because of the embarrassingly low poll recorded last month in the local council elections held under the "no party politics" ruling.

In what appeared to be a face-saving exercise, General Akuffo still insisted that the political parties should come together next July in a Government of National Unity. But only a few people take his attitude very seriously. The belief is that if one party emerges next July with a clear majority, then it will form the government and there is nothing the army can do to stop this.

The local council elections, during which covert party activity took place, have already shown that from January 1 politics in Ghana is likely to be organised very much along the same lines as before the military stepped in. On the one hand there is the Progress Party of the late Dr. Busia, on the other is the Convention People's Party of the late Kwame Nkrumah.

If the local council elections are anything to go by—and given the low turnout they must be of dubious value—the Progress Party would at present appear best placed to win an election. However, both it and the CPP could well suffer leadership problems. Neither party currently seems to have a leader acceptable to all factions.

Nor is it yet clear whether the next leader of Ghana will be a prime minister, as under the suspended 1969 constitution, or an executive president on the American model, as suggested by a Constitutional Drafting Committee which has just brave enough to head it.

Whatever history's final verdict on the Acheampong years, there can be little doubt that the military is returning to barracks leaving a country which has grown weary, demoralised, disillusioned and cynical.

Ghanaians are tired of the economic chaos of the past few years which has produced persistent shortages of the most basic commodities—beer, cigarettes, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper.

Because of shortages of foreign exchange, factories cannot get raw materials and spare parts and are thus operating at less than 30 per cent of capacity. The people are tired of an inflation rate which means that one meal (enough for one meal for six) costs Cedi 3 to 7, while the daily minimum wage is Cedi 4.

Ghanaians are immensely disillusioned with the military yet at the same time they are drifting with no clear political goal. After experimenting with Nkrumahism, two military regimes and the short-lived Busia administration, the country which, when it was granted independence 31 years ago, was regarded as an inspiration to Africa has lost its way.

A daunting task awaits the government which will take by a Constitutional Drafting Committee which has just brave enough to head it.

reported to the Government. This will depend on the deliberations of a Constituent Assembly due to start work this week, which is expected to produce some strong demands for a return to the 1969 system.

It is indicative of the high degree of muddle, conflict and ambiguity which has characterised Ghana's entire programme for a return to civilian rule that it was less than two weeks before the Constituent Assembly was due to meet that the Government finally announced how its members were to be selected.

Cynics, of whom Ghana has more than its fair share nowadays, would argue that the military's prime purpose throughout this exercise has been to safeguard those people most closely associated with the Acheampong regime.

There seems little doubt that last July's coup and the reforms which have taken place since were prompted at least in part by enlightened self-interest as well as national interest.

The former Head of State remains in detention, apparently well treated. It remains unclear what his fate will be but the military seems unlikely to want to take any punitive action which might set a precedent.

## Disillusioned and cynical

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Ghanaians are tired of the economic chaos of the past few years which has produced persistent shortages of the most basic commodities—beer, cigarettes, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper.

Because of shortages of foreign exchange, factories cannot get raw materials and spare parts and are thus operating at less than 30 per cent of capacity. The people are tired of an inflation rate which means that one meal (enough for one meal for six) costs Cedi 3 to 7, while the daily minimum wage is Cedi 4.

Ghanaians are immensely disillusioned with the military yet at the same time they are drifting with no clear political goal. After experimenting with Nkrumahism, two military regimes and the short-lived Busia administration, the country which, when it was granted independence 31 years ago, was regarded as an inspiration to Africa has lost its way.

A daunting task awaits the government which will take by a Constitutional Drafting Committee which has just brave enough to head it.

## MEN AND MATTERS

## Stopover for a Pan-European

FOR once the normally-albino Lord Kennet stayed long enough in one place for me to track him down. He was to be precise, dissecting a herring, at home in the elegant Baywater Road house where James Barrie wrote Peter Pan a century ago.

Peter Pan had the enviable talent of being able to fly, something Kennet clearly wished for himself, as we talked of his appalling timetable as a Euro-MP. His days seem to be spent mostly either on an aeroplane waiting for an aeroplane, or being somewhere he would not be if there was an aeroplane to take him away.

"It's quite simple," he said amiably. "If you're on top you want to stay there." The Council of Ministers was not interested in a "workable" Parliament, and therefore consigned its MPs, staff, and tons of documents to a life of "beating up and down the motorways of Europe."

Apart from the inconvenience and cost of moving endlessly between Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg, the last two were, he said, "hopelessly served" by aeroplanes. If it were based in Brussels, the Parliament would be at least twice as effective, precisely what the Council of Ministers did not want.

Perhaps not only the Council of Ministers, Kennet recalled with nostalgia the halcyon days of the "champagne special" charter service between Strasbourg and Heathrow, grounded by the Civil Aviation Authority.



"If you invent dynamite things are going to blow up occasionally."

"There was a long battle about whether we were VIPs or not. The CAA said we weren't so we weren't allowed the charter." Then followed a brief Indian summer when the leader of the Labour delegation, John Prescott, was allowed to be a

VIP and could confer VIP-dom on the remaining 70 British and Irish MPs and officials who used the service. That too ended. And now it is up to John Smith, the new Trade Secretary, to tackle the politically thorny question of whether Euro-

persons do or do not belong in the VIP lounge. An appeal has also gone directly to the Prime Minister.

"At the end of each week I come back and ask what I have done for the good of mankind," said Kennet as he rushed off to secure an East End nomination for next year's Euro-elections. "I become very doubtful."

Eating out Coping with unemployment is not an exclusively British headache. Australia too has seen its jobless figures rise from one per cent to over seven in a few years, a total of nearly 500,000 people. Despite the severity of the problem, the country was somewhat taken aback last week by the suggestions of Vern

Routley, head of economic studies with the Department of Employment.

His job is keeping a governmental eye on the jobs situation, which task has led him to a robust belief that unemployment is going to be a way of life for many and that they—school leavers and older people—should be "trained to a subsistence life-style."

He did not specify whether this means eating kangaroos or selling beads. But whichever it is, it is going on in New South Wales, he says, where a steady inflow of young dropouts mingle with people near retirement age who have no intention of working again.

Some, opined Routley, in a fascinating synthesis of right and left wing thought, tended to be critical because of a "Puritan ethic." Actually the trend towards going bush could be seen as "quite desirable."

## Pretty lies

It is as if we wanted to be reassured that things are not what they seem: like fake jewellery, forgery is the latest fashion. And last week was a particularly good one for forgers, with dealers bidding avidly for their work in the smarter London salerooms. Most in demand was the mysterious Spanish Forger, two of whose completely bogus medieval miniatures sold for £320 each at Sotheby's. Carefully painted on a 15th-century choirbook with the gold deliberately cracked, they were produced around 1900, but convinced at least their owner that they were worth selling. When she was told the bad news that they were no more medieval than she was, she left them uncollected at the saleroom.

Since then the Forger has become so well regarded that the Pierpont Morgan Library earlier this year mounted an exhibition entirely devoted to him. And the miniatures were eventually rescued from Sotheby's dead letter department, their owner contacted, and the world invited to name a price.

The Spanish Forger is as much admired for his commercial as for his artistic talents. Over 150 of his works, both miniatures and larger panels, have recently come to light, and although every effort has been made to discover his identity, all that is known is that he passed off his productions through the French antiques market.

Even the British Museum has since discovered it has been taken in by his painstaking attention to detail. He was always careful to use original vellum, and select subjects such as damsels in distress and Walt Disney-like castles which appealed to the growing popular taste for the medieval.

Over at Bonhams that scourge of Vermeer specialists Hans van Meegeren had a timely revenge. He suffered in his time for forging the Dutch Old Masters, but on Thursday an original signed portrait of his spouse was deemed good enough in its own right to fetch £420. I doubt whether the bewildered art world looks forward as much as I do to a first spate of newly-respectable fake fakers.

## Disturbing thought

From a Birmingham staff magazine: "Trading figures show a disappointingly small increase, and I hope all members will see in them an incentive to strive harder. Two years ago we had no rival. Today we are confronted by one who is literally breathing down our necks."

Observer



"I try to give some harassed parent a break on Saturdays. I find it gives me a break, too."

Ron Emm is an administrative officer with Barnardo's. But, as often as he can, he gives up his spare time to help at one of our Saturday Clubs for mentally handicapped children, temporarily relieving a parent of what can be a crushing burden. This is one tiny, but important, part of Barnardo's work for children in need.

Volunteers like Ron are essential to Barnardo's. Also essential are the funds to enable us to continue. Caring for children demands a great deal of money. Will you help?

Please give, your caring isn't enough. Send your cheque/PO, made payable to Dr. Barnardo's, to Barnardo's, 17E, Freeport, Ilford, Essex IG6 1BR.

**Barnardo's**



FINANCIAL TIMES

## Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 30th NOVEMBER, 1978

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month: there is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres.

Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

A key to the table is published opposite.

## Eurobonds in November

BY FRANCIS GHILES

Fortunes were very mixed in the Eurobond markets last month: the dollar sector was looking for a new level, trying to assess the effects the Carter package might have on the dollar and interest rates while DeutscheMark sector suffered a renewed bout of indignation, this time on the Japanese convertible front. Rising domestic interest rates in Germany made the indicated yield on some new issues unattractive and led, early in December, to the cancellation of two issues, the borrowers not willing to accept that a higher coupon was a prerequisite to good placement.

The dollar sector spent much of its time last month running ahead of itself: this is not the first time this phenomenon has been in evidence. Prices moved up, often over a period of days, but then a technical reaction occurred as it became clear the market was overbought.

This does not mean to say there was no buying: during the third week in November, institutional investors were heavily in the market, in sharp contrast to their behaviour immediately in the wake of the Carter package. It was a case however of too much money chasing too few bonds in a situation where dealers' inventories had been cut to the bone

because of the ever spiralling cost of money. Although the rather better demand than expected for the Norsk Hydro bond, the first straight dollar issue to be floated in more than two months suggested that some institutions were starting to invest long again, most evidence suggests institutional investors are largely sitting on the fence.

Some market participants feel that bonds are being bid up to grossly over-valued levels, essentially a reflection of hectic short term covering activity. These same participants are just keeping their fingers crossed in the hope that the better than expected performance of the Norsk Hydro bond, which was quoted in early trading at 97.08, would encourage other houses to test the water. This would have the benefit of mopping up some of the excess liquidity and at the same time help the market find a new yield level.

When the calendar in the DeutscheMark sector for the six weeks up to the Christmas was announced at the beginning of the second week of November, many bankers were incredulous: DM 1.6bn is a large figure, even for the German market and there had been some symptoms of indignation in October.

The calendar was opened by a DM 400m offering for the World Bank which had been delayed for two weeks because of adverse market conditions and the uncertainty resulting from the possible issue of up to \$10bn worth of U.S. Government foreign currency bonds. Even though prices moved up on certain days, the impression of softness was unmistakable: at the end of the month, the DM 150m convertible for Sharp ran into rough weather. Demand was very weak, as had been the case with the Nippon Yusen issue which really proved to be a dud in the secondary market. It was being traded, in early after market business at 94.08. Clearly some of the speculative charm of these Japanese convertibles has been removed in recent weeks: the Japanese stock market has been going much less fast in the past two months and more recently the Yen has weakened against the DeutscheMark.

All this suggests that the standard 3 1/2 per cent yield may have to be firmed up in the very near future. The list of Japanese convertibles in the first three months of next year to be floated in this market is quite formidable and includes a DM 200m issue, the biggest convertible ever in this sector for the public utility, Kansai Electric Power.

Matters did not improve at the beginning of this month: Westdeutsche Landesbank was forced to increase the coupon on Occidental issue it was about to price by 1/4 of a point to 6 1/2 per cent after Deutsche Bank announced

two new bonds, one for the Republic of Brazil, the other for Oesterreichische Kontrollbank, with coupons higher than had been anticipated. Clearly Deutsche Bank felt that with the rise in domestic interest rates, German investors had to be offered more attractive yields if they were to continue buying foreign DM bonds; demand for the Republic of Brazil issue is reported to be very good while the Oesterreichische Kontrollbank was priced above par.

Last week, two issues were cancelled: the borrowers were apparently unwilling to accept a higher coupon than the one which the banks had suggested to them a few weeks before. These rather unhappy few weeks suggest that some recent issues have not been placed in firm hands. Were the dollar sector to reopen seriously in the new year, the effects on the Deutsche Mark sector could be hard felt, especially if heavy calendars of new issues continue to be the order of the day.

The first SDR issue in three years was floated last month, just as the dollar denominated sector was reaching its nadir: the issue was small, SDR 25m (\$32.5m) but received better than expected. Demand seems to have come from central banks more than private investors. The French Franc sector witnessed has had a smooth run: a bond for Elf Aquitaine was launched, to be followed by another private French name. Whether it is announced before Christmas or not is as yet unclear.

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available on 30th November, 1978. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

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Merchant banking today requires size, flexibility, and global resources—all of which the Chase Group have in great measure.

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Michael Hofmann was previously a Director of a major German private bank and a member of its management committee, adding to the experience he had already gained during six years with a leading US investment bank.

Douglas McMillan has for the past five years been Managing Director of a Japanese international merchant bank, following a career with a major US investment house.

And William Steen, was the Managing Director of a prominent American investment bank's London group. The appointment of these seasoned investment bankers is clear indication of the commitment to professionalism within the Chase Group.

By expanding its services and recruiting the best people available, the Chase Merchant Banking Group is able to provide an increasingly comprehensive service that allows its customers to maximise the benefits derived from each transaction.

This is just one further illustration of how Chase is fulfilling its philosophy that "better bankers make Chase a better bank."

CHASE

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marketmaker nr.611

The story behind Marketmaker 611 is the story of Rabobank. After more than 80 years of steady growth, Rabobank occupies one of the most prominent positions amongst the leading bank organisations of Holland.

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internationally, and is now operating as Marketmaker 611, in Dutch Domestic Bonds and Euroguilder notes.

Considering the number of issues, in which Marketmaker 611 is quoted in the AIBD Quotations and Yields, it might be very worthwhile to get in touch with the "Dutch Masters in Banking".

Rabobank is also contributor to the Reuter Monitor System under page code RABA-B.

Centrale Rabobank, Holland, St. Jacobsstraat 30, Utrecht, Trading Tel: (030) 362410, Telex: 10161

Rabobank

Dutch Masters in Banking



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US DOLLAR-BASED (CONTINUED)									
ISSUE	AMOUNT	CURRENCY	DATE	PRICE	YIELD	AMOUNT	CURRENCY	DATE	PRICE
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#### Manufacturers Hanover Limited

#### The National Commercial Bank (Saudi Arabia)

#### Nederlandse Credietbank N.V.

#### Salomon Brothers International

#### Union de Banques Arabes et Européennes S.A. (U.B.A.E.)

#### Wood Gundy Limited

## Austrian Quotes

### Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	Coupon Dates	Repayment	Yield (Starting)	Price	Current Yield	Yield to Maturity
6% Brenner Autobahn 1968 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Donaukraftwerke 1939 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Grodzentrale Wien 1976 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Grodzentrale Wien 1978 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% IAKW 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Kolag 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Oester. Draufkraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Oester. Elektrizitätswerk 1967 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1968 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Rep. Oesterreich 1976 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
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6% Tauernautobahn 1974 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
6% Voest 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%
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6% Wien 1973 (G)	1.3-1.8	1.874-89	1.673	102	6.50%	6.32%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Guaranteed. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

On international capital markets Austria ranks as Triple A. For knowledgeable investors, Austrian securities are particularly safe and attractive investments.

Austrian issuing houses may be considered models where market support is concerned. One more reason for many investors to buy Austrian bonds. Girozentrale Vienna is Austria's second largest bank. Issuing as it does its own securities it looks after foreign companies on the Vienna Börsen.

## Girozentrale Vienna

### Market Maker in Austrian Eurobonds

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بکذا من التحصيل

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مكثا من الأهل



October 11 1978

The following Tombstone announcements were published in the Financial Times during November

## BONDS

Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date
31/10/78	1/11/78	6/10/78	10/11/78	Nov. 78	20/11/78
EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY		EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK		EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT FUND	
US\$18,000,000		200,000,000 French Francs		DM 20,000,000	
Private Placement		9 1/2% Bonds due 1983		6 1/2% Bearer Bonds of 1978 (84-85)	
Notes due 1990		Credit Commercial de France and others		111	
Nomura Europe N.V.				Berliner Handels-und Frankfurter Bank	
Oct. 78	1/11/78	Nov. 78	10/11/78	2/11/78	20/11/78
BANQUE EXTERIEURE D'ALGERIE		THE LONG-TERM CREDIT BANK OF JAPAN FINANCE N.V.		B.A.L.M.	
DM 100,000,000		US\$75,000,000		US\$18,000,000	
7 1/2% Bearer Notes 1983-85		Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1983		six year floating rate note	
DC Bank and others		Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd. and others		Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises U.B.A.F. and others	
2/11/78	2/11/78	Nov. 78	13/11/78	15/11/78	20/11/78
MARUDAI FOOD CO. LTD.		THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE RESETTLEMENT FUND		THE HOKKAIDO TAKUSHOKU BANK LTD.	
DM 50,000,000		DM 130,000,000		US\$20,000,000	
3 1/2% DM Convertible Bonds 1987		6 1/2% Bearer Bonds of 1978 (88-94)		Three Year Negotiable Floating Rate	
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft and others				Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.	
3/11/78	2/11/78	Nov. 78	13/11/78	Nov. 78	17/11/78
BANKAMERICA OVERSEAS FINANCE CORPORATION N.V.		THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE RESETTLEMENT FUND		UNILEVER USA	
DM 150,000,000		DM 130,000,000		US\$80,000,000	
7 1/2% DM Bonds due 1990		6 1/2% Bearer Bonds of the loan of 1978 (84-88) 11		Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1985	
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft and others		Berliner Handels-und Frankfurter Bank and others		Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M.	
3/11/78	2/11/78	22/9/78	13/11/78	23/11/78	23/11/78
EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY		BANCO CENTRAL DE RESERVA DE EL SALVADOR		KABUSHIKI KAISHA	
DM 150,000,000		US\$25,000,000		DM 50,000,000	
8 1/2% DM Bonds due 1988		Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1983		3 1/2% Convertible Bonds due 1985	
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft and others		Banque Nationale de Paris and others		Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale and others	
2/11/78	3/11/78	12/10/78	14/11/78	Nov. 78	27/11/78
BANQUE EXTERIEURE D'ALGERIE		KOMMUNALEINSTITUT FÜR AKTIEBÖLAGE		INVESTMENTS LIMITED	
US\$40,000,000		15,000,000 European Units of Account		French Francs 100,000,000	
Floating Rate Notes due 1985		10% Guaranteed Notes 1978-1983		10% Guaranteed Notes 1978-1983	
National Bank of Abu Dhabi and others		Svenska Handelsbanken and others		Republik of Finland	
6/11/78	6/11/78	18 Nov. 78	16/11/78	28/11/78	28/11/78
INVESTMENTS LTD.		REPUBLIC OF PANAMA		REPUBLIC OF FINLAND	
French Francs 100,000,000		Kuwait Dinars 6,000,000		DM 150,000,000	
10% Guaranteed Notes 1985		9 1/2% Notes due 1990		6 1/2% Bearer Bonds 1978/1983	
Banque de l'Union Europeenne and others		Kuwait Int. Inv. Co. S.A. and others		Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft and others	
1/11/78	6/11/78	17/11/78	17/11/78	Nov. 78	29/11/78
CANADA		OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.		ARAB-MALAYSIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	
US\$400,000,000		DM 80,000,000		DM 20,000,000	
9% Bonds due 1983		3 1/2% Deutsche Mark Convertible Bonds of 1978/1985		Credit Facility Due 1983	
US\$350,000,000		Deutsche Bank and others		Bayerische Landesbank Int. S.A.	
9 1/2% Bonds due 1988				US\$20,000,000	
Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc. and others				Floating Rate Notes due 1983	
8/11/78	8/11/78	16/11/78	17/11/78	30/11/78	30/11/78
CITY OF COPENHAGEN		PAPACHRISTIDIS SHIPPING LTD.		INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT	
DM 75,000,000		US\$38,238,759		DM 400,000,000	
8 1/2% DM Bonds of 1978/1990		Secured Notes due 1980 and 1981		6 1/2% DM Bonds due 1988	
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft and others		Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb		Aktiengesellschaft and others	
Oct. 78	9/11/78				
NOVO INDUSTRI A/S					
US\$20,000,000					
7% Convertible Bonds 1989					
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Ltd. and others					

## LOANS

Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date
Oct. 78	1/11/78	Sept. 78	16/11/78	Oct. 78	21/11/78
DESARROLLO PARA LA VIVIENDA C.A. 'DEVICA'		STATE OF MINAS GERAIS		REPUBLIC OF THE IVORY COAST	
U.S. Dollar equivalent of Bolivares 90,000,000		US\$60,000,000		US\$18,000,000	
3 year loan facility		Term Loan		Project Facility	
Orion Bank Ltd and The Royal Bank of Canada		Bank of Montreal and others		Soditic S.A. and others	
Oct. 78	1/11/78	Oct. 78	10/11/78	Sept. 78	23/11/78
BANCA SOMEX S.A.		TORRAS HOSTENCH S.A.		BANCO CREFISUL DE INVESTIMENTO S.A.	
US\$225,000,000		US\$11,000,000		US\$20,000,000	
Medium Term Facility		Floating Rate Term Loan		Medium Term Loan	
Bank America Int. Group and others		Banco de Mexico S.A. and AMRO Bank		Societe Generale de Banque S.A.	
WESTERN UNION CORPORATION		Nov. 78	13/11/78	Nov. 78	23/11/78
US\$55,000,000		LIGHT-SERVICIOS DE ELECTRICIDAD S.A.		UDRUZENA	
7 year facility		US\$150,000,000		BEOGRADSKA BANKA BEOGRAD	
Singer & Friedlander Ltd		Medium Term Loan		INVESTICIONA BANKA	
THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA		Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale and others		TIOTROD UDRUZENA BANKA	
US\$250,000,000		Oct. 78	13/11/78	US\$10,300,000	
Medium Term Loan		SOCIETE NATIONALE DES MATERIAUX DE CONSTRUCTION		Medium Term Loan	
Lloyds Bank Ltd and others		US\$25,000,000		Japan Int. Bank Ltd. and The Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd.	
14/9/78	1/11/78	AL-UBAF Group and others		Sept. 78	23/11/78
THE FED-MART CORPORATION		BANK HANDLOWY WARSZAWIE S.A.		SAUDI RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.	
US\$50,000,000		US\$20,000,000		CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES	
Domestic Financing		Medium Term Loan		Saudi Riyals 192,182,185	
Security Pacific Nat. Bank and others		US\$70,000,000		Syndicated Guarantee Facility	
9/11/78	1/11/78	9/11/78	14/11/78	Oct. 78	1/11/78
EUROFINANCE		THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA		HOUSEHOLD FINANCE	
US\$100,000,000		US\$90,000,000		US\$150,000,000	
9% debts series 5F due 1985		Medium Term Loan		9% debts series 5F due 1985	
Goldman, Sachs & Co. and others		Chase Merchant Banking Group		Goldman, Sachs & Co. and others	
9/11/78	14/11/78	9/11/78	14/11/78	30/10/78	2/11/78
HYDROELECTRICA DE CATALUNA S.A.		HYDROELECTRICA DE CATALUNA S.A.		SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.	
US\$80,000,000		US\$80,000,000		6,000,000 Shares	
Medium Term Credit Facility		Chase Merchant Banking Group and others		Common Stock	
Chase Merchant Banking Group and others		2/11/78	14/11/78	American Express Int. Banking Corp. and others	
TELECOMUNICACOES BRASILEIRAS S.A.		TELECOMUNICACOES BRASILEIRAS S.A.		INSTITUTO PER LA RICOSTITUZIONE INDUSTRIALE	
US\$225,000,000		US\$225,000,000		US\$500,000,000	
Medium Term Credit Facility		Medium Term Credit Facility		Medium Term Loan	
Chase Merchant Banking Group and others		Chase Merchant Banking Group and others		Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. and others	
20/10/78	14/11/78	20/10/78	14/11/78	Oct. 78	24/11/78
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT BANK OF IRAN		STATE OF ESPERITO SANTO		SANTO	
US\$60,000,000		US\$30,000,000		Medium Term Loan	
Medium Term Credit Facility		Badische Kommunale Landesbank International S.A. and others		Sept. 78	27/11/78
Chase Merchant Banking Group and others		EMPRESA NACIONAL DE ELECTRICIDAD S.A.		EMPRESA NACIONAL DE ELECTRICIDAD S.A.	
DALGETY LIMITED		US\$25,000,000		US\$25,000,000	
US\$125,000,000		10 year loan facility		10 year Floating Rate Loan	
Lazard Brothers & Co. Ltd. and others		OCEANIC		Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A. and Banque Louis-Dreyfus	
15/11/78	15/11/78	Nov. 78	15/11/78	Oct. 78	28/11/78
JUGOBANKA UNITED BANK		HUNTER DOUGLAS		LONDON BOROUGH OF BOUNDSLOW	
US\$20,000,000		US\$10,000,000		US\$10,000,000	
Medium Term Loan Facility		Ten Year Credit Facility		Medium Term Loan	
The Mitsui Bank Ltd.		Orion Bank Limited		Kleinwort, Benson Ltd.	
12/10/78	3/11/78	PROPERTY SECURITY INV. TST. LTD.		Oct. 78	28/11/78
NATIONAL PETROLEUM CONSTRUCTION CO. (N.P.C.C.)		US\$4,000,000		UDRUZENA	
US\$20,000,000		Five Year Loan Facility		BEOGRADSKA BANKA	
Medium Term Loan Facility		Brown, Shipley & Co. Ltd.		US\$12,000,000	
National Bank of Abu Dhabi STENA GROUP OF COMPANIES		AUKRA BRUK A/S		Medium Term Loan	
US\$2,785,000		US\$12,000,000		The Sanwa Bank Ltd.	
Medium Term Finance		Ship Construction Finance Ole Schroeder & Co. A/S		Sept. 78	28/11/78
Nordic Bank Ltd		CITY OF COPENHAGEN		EMPRESA NACIONAL DE ELECTRICIDAD S.A. MADRID	
Oct. 78	3/11/78	Flux 250,000,000		US\$15,000,000	
HELIOT, COMPANIA ANONIMA		Term Loan		Medium Term Trade Financing Facility	
US\$13,782,277		Bank of Europe S.A. and others		The Yasuda Trust and Banking Co. Ltd. Tokyo	
Total of 7 year loans		Nov. 78	17/11/78	Nov. 78	28/11/78
Samuel Montagu & Co. Ltd.		BANCO NACIONAL DE CREDITO CO-OPERATIVO S.A.		C.A. LA ELECTRICIDAD DE CARACAS	
NOSEK HYDRO PRODUKTION A.S.		US\$50,000,000		US\$10,000,000	
US\$12,000,000		Term Loan		Medium Term Euro-Dollar Loan	
Eurodollar Loan		Centrale Rabobank and others		Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York	
Citibank N.A. and others		FAELLESBANKEN		Nov. 78	28/11/78
SOCIETE NATIONALE DE FABRICATION ET DE MONTAGE DU MATERIEL ELECTRIQUE ET ELECTRONIQUE		DM 16,000,000		TRICENTROL THISTLE DEVELOPMENT LTD.	
US\$45,000,000		Medium Term Loan		US\$60,000,000	
Medium Term Loan		Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale and others		Project Refinancing	
Citicorp International Group		Sept. 78	21/11/78	N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd. and Barclays Merchant Bank Ltd.	
US\$100,000,000		LJUBLJANA BANKA, VOJVODJANSKA BANKA -UDRUZENA BANKA		ESTABLISHMENT DUBAI	
Term Loan		NOVI SAD		US\$8,500,000	
The Mitsui Bank Ltd.		US\$70,000,000		Medium Term Loan	
Oct. 78	9/11/78	SHV HOLDINGS NV		Bankers Trust Co. and others	
US\$75,000,000		Medium Term Loan			
8 year Multicurrency Loan Facility		Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.) and others			
AMRO Bank					

## OTHERS

Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date	Tombstone date	Publication date
Oct. 78	1/11/78	30/10/78	2/11/78	38/9/78	14/11/78
HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION		SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.		SOCIETE DES MAISONS PHENIX	
US\$150,000,000		6,000,000 Shares		473,200 shares	
9% debts series 5F due 1985		Common Stock		American Express Int. Banking Corp. and others	
Goldman, Sachs & Co. and others					

## EXPLANATORY NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

### SPECIAL REFERENCES

#### 1. GENERAL—ATTACHED TO NAME OF BORROWER

D = Domestic Management group  
L = Bondholders option to redeem loan prior to maturity  
P = Private or semi-private placement  
MC = Principal/Interest payable in more than two currencies  
W = Withholding tax (with percentage rate %)  
WW = With warrants  
KW = Ex warrants

#### 2. 1/DM ISSUES

The figures shown are the fixed 1/DM parties which prevail over the lives of the issues.

#### 3. FLOATING RATE ISSUES

The figures given are the minimum coupon rate: % margin above LIBOR.

#### 4. ATTACHED TO MATURITY DESCRIPTION

S = Semi-annual payments

#### 5. ATTACHED TO NEXT 5/F AMOUNT

PF = Purchase fund—the amount shown is the annual total (or total to the next coupon date), which may be applied. The year associated with the amount shown relates to the year end of the purchase period.

DP = Non-cumulative option to double sinking fund payments.

#### 6. ATTACHED TO CALL NOTICE (DAYS)

C = Callable only on coupon dates.

Y = Callable only at annual intervals.

Otherwise callable at any time.

#### 7. YIELD TO NEXT CALL

0 = Yield is negative.

#### 8. ATTACHED TO YIELD TO NEXT CALL (CONVERTIBLE ISSUES ONLY)

R = Call is subject to a restriction governed by a fixed relationship between the share price and the conversion price.

#### 9. CONVERTIBLE ISSUES

The share price is always denominated in the same currency as the conversion price. Please note that where the premium exceeds 200% no figure is shown in the premium/discount column.

The following convertible bonds are subject to convertibility into the indicated stocks.

NAME OF BOND	CONVERTIBLE INTO
American Tobacco Int.	American Brands Inc.
Asia Navigation Int.	East Asia Navigation Co.
Bankers Int. (LUX.)	Bankers Trust New York
Broadway-Hale Stores	Carter Hawley Hale
Burmah Oil	Shell Transport & Trading
Chevron Oil O/S	Standard Oil of California
Dart Industries	Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing
Inter-Continental Hotels	Pan-Am World Airways
Int. Standard Elec.	International Tel & Tel
" " " "	" " " "
" " " "	" " " "
ISA Finance Holdings	" " " "
Kinney	Warner Communications
Leasco World Trade	Reliance Group Inc.
Leasco Int.	" " " "
Levin-Townsend Int. Fin.	Rockwood Computer
Norwich OS	Morton-Norwich Products
Owens-Illinois	Owens Corning Fibreglass
Plywood Champion Int.	Champion Int.

The following international convertible issues have fixed rates of currency conversion:

COUNTRY	ISSUE/COUPON/MATURITY	EXCHANGE RATE
FRANCE	Michelin Int. Dev.	6 1985 F.Fr.554 = \$1
	Suez et l'Union Paris	7 1983 F.Fr.554 = \$1
HONG KONG	Asia Navigation Int.	8 1989 HK\$ 5.07 = \$1
ISRAEL	Leumi Int. Inv.	7 1984 IL 10.1026 = \$1
JAPAN	Asahi Chemical	8 1990 Yen 383.0 = \$1
	Asahi Optical	8 1993 Yen 282.0 = \$1
	Dai Nippon Printing	8 1986 Yen 380.0 = \$1
	Daiichi	6 1991 Yen 300.0 = \$1
	Daiwa House Ind.	7 1981 Yen 301.0 = \$1
	Hitachi Ltd.	8 1979 Yen 380.0 = \$1
COUNTRY	ISSUE/COUPON/MATURITY	EXCHANGE RATE
	Hitachi Ltd.	8 1984 Yen 380.0 = \$1
	Hokushin Electric	8 1982 Yen 383.0 = \$1
	Ito-Yokado	8 1982 Yen 272.0 = \$1
	Jusco	6 1992 Yen 277.4 = \$1
	Kao Soap	6 1992 Yen 286.0 = \$1
	Komatsu Manf.	6 1990 Yen 383.0 = \$1
	Komatsu Ltd.	7 1980 Yen 284.3 = \$1
	Kubota	8 1991 Yen 303.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Elec.	8 1991 Yen 285.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Elec.	8 1992 Yen 285.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Elec.	7 1981 Yen 305.3 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Gas Chem	8 1992 Yen 272.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Hyv. Ind.	8 1991 Yen 383.55 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Corp.	6 1982 Yen 277.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Corp.	7 1980 Yen 284.0 = \$1
	Mitsubishi Corp.	8 1981 Yen 301.0 = \$1
	Mitsui & Co.	7 1980 Yen 285.0 = \$1
	Mitsui & Co.	8 1989 Yen 285.0 = \$1
	Mitsui Real Estate	6 1992 Yen 287.5 = \$1
	Nitto Elec. Ind.	8 1992 Yen 284.13 = \$1
	Pioneer Electric	8 1989 Yen 280.0 = \$1
	Ricoh	8 1981 Yen 383.0 = \$1
	Sanyo Electric	8 1991 Yen 283.35 = \$1
	Sanyo Electric	7 1990 Yen 302.17 = \$1
	Setsum Paperboard	8 1992 Yen 283.0 = \$1
	Sumitomo Elec.	6 1992 Yen 287.5 = \$1
	Sumitomo Metal	6 1992 Yen 287.5 = \$1
	Takeda Chemical	8 1984 Yen 380.0 = \$1
	Tokyo Dept. Store	8 1992 Yen 285.0 = \$1
	Toshiba	8 1990 Yen 285.5 = \$1
	Enzima	1992 D.Fr.2.4565 = \$1
NETHERLANDS	All other issues	7 1991 SS 2.44 = \$1
SINGAPORE	Dev. Bk. of Singapore	8 1988 SS 2.32 = \$1
	United Overseas Bank	8 1988 SS 2.32 = \$1
S. AFRICA	Rand Selection Corp.	8 1986 RD 0.7143 = \$1
SWEDEN	Sandvik	8 1988 SwK 4.7825 = \$1
U.K.	Babcock Nederland	7 1992 £0.574 = \$1
	Reetham Fin.	8 1992 £0.574 = \$1
	Burmah Oil	5



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**BANKERS TRUST INTERNATIONAL LIMITED****Market Makers in Floating Rate Note Issues**

The interest rates per annum applicable to the following USA Floating Rate Note issues were announced during November. These rates are quoted for information purposes only, and should be confirmed prior to the execution of a specific transaction. The rates quoted apply to the six-month periods shown.

	From	To	Rate
I.B.F. 6 1/2% Min	1983 1 Nov. 78	1 May 79	11 1/2%
Bge. Ext. d'Algerie	1985 2 Nov. 78	1 May 79	12 1/2%
C.C.F. 5 1/2% Nil	1985 3 Nov. 78	3 May 79	12 1/2%
U.O.B.	1983 6 Nov. 78	7 May 79	12 1/2%
Royal Bk. Scotland	1983 9 Nov. 78	9 May 79	12 1/2%
L.T.C.B.	1985 9 Nov. 78	9 May 79	12 1/2%
Vizcaya Int'l	1981 12 Nov. 78	14 May 79	12 1/2%
Bk. of Tokyo (Curacao)	1984 15 Nov. 78	15 May 79	12 1/2%
Midland Bank	1982 15 Nov. 78	15 May 79	12 1/2%
Societe Generale	1981 15 Nov. 78	15 May 79	12 1/2%
Golabank	1988 15 Nov. 78	15 May 79	12 1/2%
O.K.B.	1982 17 Nov. 78	17 May 79	12 1/2%
Creditanstalt	1984 20 Nov. 78	21 May 79	12 1/2%
Midland Int'l Fin.	1987 20 Nov. 78	21 May 79	12 1/2%
Bank of Tokyo Ltd.	1980 22 Nov. 78	22 May 79	11 1/2%
C.G.M.F.	1984 25 Nov. 78	25 May 79	12 1/2%
Bank Handlowy	1983/85 27 Nov. 78	27 May 79	12 1/2%
U.O.B.	1981 27 Nov. 78	27 May 79	12 1/2%
Enel	1980 30 Nov. 78	31 May 79	12 1/2%
Gabine	1982 30 Nov. 78	31 May 79	12 1/2%
Lloyds Eurofinance	1983 30 Nov. 78	31 May 79	12 1/2%
Popular Espanol	1981 30 Nov. 78	31 May 79	12 1/2%
Standard Chartered	1984 30 Nov. 78	31 May 79	12 1/2%

Interest rates applicable to the issues listed below will be announced during December:

Indus. Bank of Japan Finance	1985
Bayerische Vereinsbank	1981
Andelsbanken	1984
U.B.A.F.	1981
S.O.F.T.E.	1984
U.B.A.F. 7 1/2% Min	1983
Parissus	1980
Bank Handlowy	1981
Banque Worms	1985
C.N.C.A.	1984
D.G. Bank Finance	1982
L.T.C.B.	1981
Creditanstalt Bankverein	1981
National Westminster	1980
Unicredito International	1981
C.C.F.	1981
Hydrocarbons Bank	1983
Credit Lyonnais 6 1/2% Min	1983

**BTI****BANKERS TRUST INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**

56-60 New Broad Street, London EC2.  
Dealers' Telephone: 588 6301-5, Telex: 883042.

**REGION 1 - BELGIUM**

105 Bondtrade  
110 Dewaay, Seblle, Servais  
Van Campenhout & Cie  
115 Kredietbank N.V.

**REGION 2 - FRANCE**

230 Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement (B.A.I.I.)  
235 Banque de l'Union Europeenne  
225 Banque Louis-Dreyfus  
205 Banque Nationale de Paris  
210 Credit Commercial de France Paris  
216 Credit Lyonnais  
218 E. F. Hutton Services S.A.R.L.  
220 Internation-Banque  
270 Smith Barney Harris, Upham & Co. Inc.

**REGION 3 - GERMANY/AUSTRIA**

300 Commerzbank AG  
305 Deutsche Bank AG  
308 Dresdner Bank AG  
307 Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale  
309 Creditanstalt Bankverein  
310 Girozentrale und Bank der Österreichischen Sparkassen AG

**REGION 4 - ITALY**

405 Banca Commerciale Italiana Milan  
407 Banco Ambrosiano S.p.A.  
409 Banco di Roma  
415 Credito Italiano  
420 Istituto Bancario Italiano  
425 Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino  
430 Monte dei Paschi di Siena

**REGION 5 - LUXEMBOURG**

505 Banque Generale du Luxembourg S.A.  
510 Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.  
540 Bayerische Landesbank International S.A.  
515 Dewaay Luxembourg S.A.  
520 Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourggeise  
530 Swiss Bank Corporation (Luxembourg)

**REGION 6 - NETHERLANDS**

600 H. Albert de Bary & Co. N.V.  
601 Aigemene Bank Nederland N.V.  
602 Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.  
603 Bank Mees & Hope N.V.  
604 Barclays Kof & Co. N.V.  
611 Centrale Rabobank Utrecht  
612 Van der Hoop, Offers & Zoon N.V.  
605 Bank Morgan Labouchere N.V.  
610 F. van Lanschot  
606 Nederlandse Middenstandsbank N.V.  
607 Nederlandse Credietbank N.V.  
608 Pierson, Heidring & Pierson  
609 Slavenburg, Oyens & Van Eeghen N.V.

**REGION 7 - SCANDINAVIA**

705 Bank of Helsinki Ltd. (Helsingfors Aktiebank)  
740 Den norske Creditbank  
750 Den Danske Bank of 1871 Aktieselskab  
710 R. Henriques Jr. Bank-Aktieselskab  
715 Kansallis-Osake-Pankki  
720 Kjøbenhavn Handelsbank  
745 Postipankki  
730 Privatbanken Aktieselskab  
735 Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken  
735 Union Bank of Finland (Nordiska Föreningsbanken AB)

**REGION 8 - SWITZERLAND**

800 Bondpartners S.A.  
805 Credit Suisse/Swiss Credit Bank  
860 Swiss Bank Corporation  
870 Union Bank of Switzerland

**REGION 9 - UNITED KINGDOM**

901 Akroyd & Smithers Limited  
903 Bank Julius Baer International  
905 Bankers Trust International Limited  
910 Banque Francaise de Credit International Ltd.  
909 Chase Manhattan Ltd.  
911 Citicorp International Bank Limited  
912 Continental Illinois Limited  
914 Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd.  
913 Daiwa Europe N.V.  
915 Deltec Trading Company Limited  
920 Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation  
922 Dominion Securities Limited  
925 European Banking Company Ltd.  
930 First Chicago Limited  
931 Goldman Sachs International Corp.  
932 Hambro Bank Limited  
933 I.B.J. International Limited  
934 Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.  
935 Kidder Peabody Securities Limited  
938 Loeb, Rhoades  
939 Kuhn Loeb Lehman Brothers Inc.  
936 Manufacturers Hanover Limited  
937 McLeod, Young, Weir International Limited  
940 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith (Brokers & Dealers) Ltd.  
941 Morgan Stanley International  
945 Nesbit, Thomson Limited  
942 The Nikkei Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd.  
943 Nomura Europe N.V.  
946 Orion Bank Limited  
947 Salomon Brothers International Ltd.  
950 Samuel Montagu & Co. Ltd.  
955 Scandinavian Bank Limited  
960 Strauss, Turnbull & Co.  
962 Sumitomo Finance International  
984 Vickers, de Costa & Co. Ltd.  
985 S. W. Warburg & Co. Ltd.  
987 Wedd Darlacher Mordant Ltd.  
970 Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale  
975 White, Weld Securities  
977 W. S. Wain & Co. Inc.  
980 Wood Gundy Ltd.  
990 Yamachi International (Europe) Ltd.

**REGION 10 - UNITED STATES**

10 Arnold and S. Blechroeder, Inc.  
80 Salomon Brothers  
80 Atlantic Capital Corporation  
005 The Arab Co. for Trading Securities S.A.K.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

**Udruzena Beogradska Banka**

and

**Vojvodjanska Banka-Udruzena Banka****\$21,000,000****Nine Year Loan**

Managed by

**Loeb Rhoades, Hornblower International Limited****Bank of Montreal****The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd.****Forfaitierung und Finanz A.G.****Girard Bank****Irving Trust Company****The Yasuda Trust & Banking Company Limited**

Provided by

**Bank of Montreal****The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd.****Banque Commerciale pour l'Europe du Nord (Eurobank)****Forfaitierung und Finanz A.G.****Girard Bank****Irving Trust Company****The Yasuda Trust & Banking Company Limited**

Agent

**Bank of Montreal**

December 1978

The West LB-Euro Deutschmark Bond Quotations and Yields will be published in the Financial Times on Friday 15th December 1978.

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

**\$250,000,000****General Motors Acceptance Corporation****9% Notes Due June 1, 1984**

Interest payable June 1 and December 1

**MORGAN STANLEY & CO.**

Incorporated

**DILLON, READ & CO. INC.****GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.****MERRILL LYNCH WHITE WELD CAPITAL MARKETS GROUP**

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner &amp; Smith Incorporated

**BACHE HALSEY STUART SHIELDS**

Incorporated

**DREXEL BURNHAM LAMBERT**

Incorporated

**KIDDER, PEABODY & CO.**

Incorporated

**LOEB RHOADES, HORNBLOWER & CO.****SMITH BARNEY, HARRIS UPHAM & CO.**

Incorporated

**WERTHEIM & CO., INC.****DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.****THE FIRST BOSTON CORPORATION****LEHMAN BROTHERS KUHN LOEB**

Incorporated

**SALOMON BROTHERS****BLITH EASTMAN DILLON & CO.**

Incorporated

**E. F. HUTTON & COMPANY INC.****LAZARD FRERES & CO.****PAINZ, WEBBER, JACKSON & CURTIS****WARBURG PARIBAS BECKER****BEAR, STEARNS & CO.**

December 6, 1978

**Creditanstalt - your partner in Austria for dealing in Austrian Schilling Bonds and International Bonds of Austrian issuers**

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds of Austrian issuers

maturity up to 5 years

	Middle price	Average life	Yield to average life	Current yield	Redemption (mandatory drawings by lot)
8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	101, —	1,20	7,88	7,92	15. 2.77-81 at 101,0
8 % Österreich 1973/III/B/82	102, —	1,96	7,99	7,84	20.11.74-82 at 102,0 to 102,5
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	102, —	2,25	7,87	8,33	5. 3.76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	101,75	1,96	7,87	8,35	19.11.75-82 at 100,5
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1974/B/81	101,50	1,90	7,85	8,37	29.10.75-81 at 100,5
7 3/4% VÖEST-Alpine 1973/B/82	102,25	2,08	7,89	7,58	4. 7.77-82 at 102,0 to 103,0

maturity over 5 years

8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/III/85	104,50	3,98	7,89	8,13	27.11.79-85 at 103,0 to 103,5
8 % Österreich 1976/II/B/86	100,25	6,38	7,94	7,98	21.10.83-86 at 100,0
8 % Österreich 1977/S/B/87	100,25	5,70	7,94	7,98	15. 2.82-87 at 100,0
8 % Arlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	100,50	4,15	7,83	7,96	29. 7.80-85 at 100,0
8 1/2% Wien 1974/B/84	101,50	3,08	7,88	8,37	2. 7.75-84 at 100,0
8 % CA-BV 1976/II/A/91	100,50	6,84	7,89	7,98	7.10.77-91 at 100,0
8 1/2% Energie 1975/II, B + S/85	104,50	3,90	7,90	8,13	29.10.79-85 at 103,5
8 % Energie 1978/B/87	100,10	6,24	7,97	7,99	1. 3.83-87 at 100,0
8 % Sempit 1973/88	102,25	4,82	7,95	7,82	30. 3.74-88 at 103,0

Selected US-\$ Bonds of Austrian issuers

5 3/4% Alpine Montan 65/85	6 % Rep. of Austria 64/84
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 66/86	6 3/4% Rep. of Austria 67/82
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 67/82	8 3/4% Rep. of Austria 76/90
9 1/2% Österreichische Kontrollbank 74/79 in Austrian Schilling (traded in US-\$ only)	8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 77/87

Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

For current prices and further information please contact:

For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger

(Telephone: 6622/1701 or 1707, Telex: 74261-63)

For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 76943)

Code for Renter Monitor Securities Program: CADA, CADB

**Creditanstalt**

Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Schottenbasse 6, A-1010 Vienna

**First Chicago Limited****Bond Dealers****telephone number change**

First Chicago Limited announces that its Bond Dealers telephone number will be changed on 11th December, 1978 to:-

**01-283 7031/4****INVESTMENT FUNDS**

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios

**Quotations & Yields as at 30th Nov., 1978****SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE****BANQUE GENERALE Du LUXEMBOURG**

Fund	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date
Rentinvest	LuxFr 824	LuxFr 1000	8.18	20 Nov. (Feb)
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1376	LuxFr 1000	(Capitalisation)	
	1977/78		1975/78	
	High	Low	High	Low
Rentinvest	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1286	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1061

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# A case study of famine amid plenty

THE PARADOX of a labour famine amidst plenty is nowhere better illustrated than in the economy at present than in the shortages of skilled workers recently reported in the North West. Altogether some 200,000 people are available for work in the region including 100,000 on the unemployment registers of Merseyside alone. Yet in spite of this, nearly half the companies covered in a survey by the regional CBI claimed output was being hindered by shortages of the right personnel.

A sample of 254 companies turned up now fewer than 3,000 job vacancies: some in key management and engineering areas, but including some for clerical, secretarial, and telephonists. With the sample covering only a small proportion of industry in the North West the implication must be that many thousands more jobs are available in the area—and no doubt throughout Britain—if people with the right skills for them could be found. Furthermore every skilled job that is filled is likely to produce a spin-off in less skilled ancillary work.

The problem is not confined to any particular type, or size, of company in any special part of the North West. The nationalised British Aerospace Corporation, which has a long order book for defence equipment at its Preston and Warton factories in North Lancashire, needs 90 electricians and the same number of fitters, plus 150 engineering craftsmen of various types. At Crewe in Cheshire, Rolls-Royce Motors needs 100 men. It has a major expansion of its facilities under way to meet world wide demand for its cars and precision engineering components. Its main shortages are in the coachbuilding and coach trim trades. Cooper (Merseyside) is not atypical of many of the smaller firms in the area. It employs under 100

people, making parts for the aviation industry. It could absorb a further 25-30 men, particularly machinists if it could find them.

On a much larger scale, British Nuclear Fuels needs 350 electrical, electronic and chemical engineers to support the major expansion of its nuclear re-processing activities now under way at Windscale. Ferranti has a number of plants spread throughout the region and it needs 35 computer programmers and 42 electronic engineers.

**In demand**  
At Burnall-Castrol, which runs a specialist refinery at Ebbw Vale in South Wales, there have been shortages this year in draughtsmen one of the skills most in demand.

Union estimates put the shortage of draughtsmen in the area at several thousand and at British Aerospace special three-month courses have been organised to upgrade craftsmen engineers to draughtsmen. The problem clearly has many strands, but much of the difficulty, according to these companies, can be traced back to the wage rate for the job. Successive attempts to control pay by Governments of both parties over the past 20-30 years have led to a serious depression of differentials. In spite of their training and evident value to industry, many craftsmen are earning perhaps only 25 a week more on basic rates than general workers. What makes the job even worse for them is that after payments for shift work have been added, the general worker may well be taking home more than craftsmen, many of whom do not have to work shifts.

As a result craftsmen have become much more willing to move from job to job, usually within the locality, to boost

their incomes. Skilled men are no longer prepared to stay with the company with which they are trained but will perhaps move down the road for a matter of only £2 a week more, one employer in the region points out. Furthermore, workers may sometimes rejoin their former employer if they see an opportunity to increase their wages further at a later stage.

Rolls-Royce Motors is a case in point. The company has the two major lorry manufacturers, ERF and Foden, as near neighbours in North Cheshire, both of which struck new wage deals with their employees last spring. The result was some drifting of skilled coachbuilders away from Rolls-Royce to the lorry makers, which have a need for similar skills. The company claims it is only now able to hold its own again following a recent wage settlement which gives its employees a 19 per cent increase—a 5 per cent basic rise plus 14 per cent in productivity payments.

The difficulty which employers often face in rewarding their skilled employees has another effect, too, as Mr. Reg Mercado, managing director of Cooper (Merseyside) points out. Himself a former toolmaker, he says skilled men, particularly in industries such as aerospace, can sometimes be handling components made of exotic materials and worth perhaps £20,000 or more. In such cases one mistake in machining can be very costly yet the responsibility is not recognised by pay differentials. Men consequently often prefer to take work which has less responsibility attached, and yet is perhaps more highly paid.

But differentials, which most companies now believe will have to be widened, represent only one side of the problem. Faced with the problems of inflation and an international trade

recession, industry has inevitably been searching for possible cuts in expenditure, and in many cases these have fallen on training. According to the Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB), some 19,000 new craftsmen and a smaller number of technicians are needed in engineering alone each year to replace the losses caused by retirement, promotion, and movement out of the industry, but over recent years, the industry's intake of apprentices has fluctuated with the economy.

The Board has sought to make up deficiencies in industry's intake by itself sponsoring apprentices, and has frequently warned employers of possible shortages when an upturn in activity occurred. The Board's activities are limited, however, by the finance available to it. Moreover, since 1973 it has been easier for companies to escape from the levy collected by the Board, and this has reduced the funds it has to support training.

**School-leavers**  
Apprentice recruitment is not helped either by the poor estimation in which industry is now often held by school-leavers. Engineering companies in particular feel they are associated in schoolboys' minds with unpleasant working conditions and regular redundancies. Many able young people also tend either to stay on at school or are anxious on leaving to go straight to a job immediately offering good wages rather than spend perhaps four years acquiring a trade on low wage rates.

It is a problem which could be overcome in part by increased training of older people after they have gained some experience at work, but here the nettle is the attitude of the unions. The Government's skill centres throughout the country

play a part in helping both to equip individuals with increased skills and to provide industry with a new resource. In the older crafts, however, unions are often reluctant to accept dilutees—men with a shortened period of training rather than a full apprenticeship—alongside their own members. Thus, instead of being able to use the centres to fill key engineering vacancies, employers in some parts of the country frequently find they can only use the facilities as a means of equipping existing skilled employees with further skills or of acquiring workers with some of the less crucial skills.

"It is a fact of industrial life in the UK that the only way to get a craftsman is to train 16-year-old boys. We would love to take people in the 30s and 40s and have them trained, but it is just not on. For the unions the apprenticeship system is sacrosanct," claimed one major employer of craftsmen in the North West.

Thus in the search for skilled workers employers are fishing in the same limited and sometimes diminishing pond. In some cases where the local pool of labour has been exhausted, companies have had to offer generous re-settlement allowances in a bid to attract skilled men from further afield. ICI, for example has advertised in South Wales for instrument artificers to work at its Teesside complex, parts of which have had to be shut down this year because of labour shortages. British Aerospace has been seeking to recruit engineers in the North East for its Cheshire factories in the hope that the decline in the shipbuilding industry may have released a new source of skilled workers. The net effect of these moves, however, is merely to transfer skilled labour from one area to another.

The problem is simple enough to state, but finding a solution is much more difficult. The Manpower Services Commission in a review published last month pointed to the need to improve labour market intelligence and to promote a more integrated approach between its own operation and those of the training boards and further education.

Major changes in the Training Opportunities Scheme (TOPS) run by the MSC were announced last month. They are designed to ensure that its efforts are more closely related to the needs of employers and individuals and will help meet skill shortages. The training for skills programme launched by the MSC is also intended to prevent persistent shortages of skills from building up and to replace the stop-go attitude adopted by some employers towards training.

The MSC has also identified microprocessing as a major area where it will need to become involved. Many jobs will be lost but at the same time there will be an increased demand for people who can design, install and maintain the new systems. But although Government agencies are now taking an active role in trying to balance the labour market, many individual employers in the North West have themselves decided that an increase in their own training effort is required to meet needs.

Rolls-Royce Motors, which runs one of the most prized apprenticeships, has increased its intake to 80 this year and will be expanding the number further to 120 in 1979 following completion of a major new apprentice training centre. In 1980 the number will rise to 150. British Nuclear Fuels currently has some 740 apprentices compared with 420 in 1974-75 and is planning to increase numbers further next year.

The speed with which apprentice numbers can be increased is limited, however, by the number of craftsmen available to undertake the training. Craftsmen converted into instructors cease to be available for skilled work in the plant where they are most needed in the short term, Mr. Jo McCrickard, personnel director of BNF points out. Some employers now accept that they will have to train in excess of requirements to cater for losses of skilled men to other smaller employers who have perhaps stopped training.

**Group schemes**  
Small companies unable on their own to justify the cost of expensive training facilities have also come together in a number of instances to start group schemes. The East Manchester Group Engineering Training Association, formed in April this year, brings together three former joint training bodies in the towns of Ashton, Hyde and Openshaw, and covers some 80 companies with employment ranging from six people to 1,200. The association is currently training about 300 apprentices as well as providing other courses for the 10,000 people employed in member companies. Finance is provided by the EITB.

There has also been recognition by major computer users that further in-house training will be needed to deal with the chronic shortages in programming and in repair and maintenance engineers. The National Computing Centre itself runs a scheme for the MSC which trains unemployed school leavers, some of them lacking formal qualifications, in computer programming. Altogether 1,000

young people have been trained or are on courses at present.

Thus a number of moves are being made to deal with a problem—the shortage of skills—which is now widely recognised.

Skill shortages have a number of consequences for industry both in the short and the longer term. In the first place apart from keeping unemployment at a higher level than it need be, there is the impact on the existing labour force. In order to cope many companies are obliged to ask their skilled workers to put in long hours of overtime. This in itself only serves to make skilled work less attractive, and it also adds to unit costs, reducing the competitiveness of goods produced.

A more serious long-term consequence is to slow down the expansion of faster-growing industries and thus to delay the process of industrial adaptation. This is a problem for the UK as a whole but particularly for poorer regions such as the North West. At present the North West is near the mid-point in Britain's unemployment league table—better off than Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the North East but worse off than the South East, Midlands, the South West and Yorkshire.

The region's share of total UK unemployment, however, has increased over the past 10 years and its ratio of vacancies to unemployed is actually the worst in Britain. Average household income in the region is also low and there are some areas including Greater Manchester where there is a real problem of low wages. In part this reflects the continued importance of certain declining industries such as textiles and clothing, which still provide almost 30 per cent of total manufacturing employment in the region.

## Tomorrow's product

From the Technical Director, Standard Telephones and Cables

Sir—The Prime Minister's announcement (December 7) to the National Economic Development Council of Government proposals for the application and development of microelectronics and the related report of the Central Policy Review Staff were a welcome for their open expression of the impact on employment patterns as for the aid itself. Open-minded but not uncritical acceptance of the need for change of skills and training at all levels is one essential aspect of the approach to any new technological development.

What was disappointing, however, in the published articles was the concentration on the impact of microelectronics on known and "useful" tasks. Part of the change of attitude required in embracing micro-electronic technology is a more imaginative approach to the identification of applications which would currently be judged to be "useless." The pocket calculator is the classic example of a product which would have been classed as useless before it appeared on the market yet, in 1976, pocket calculators consumed 1,000 times as many logic elements (in micro-electronic form) as mainframe computers.

Tomorrow's equivalent of the pocket calculator will replace many of the jobs lost in traditional areas. Let us hope that the administrators of the funds now set aside will recognise the product when it arrives.

E. B. Marsh, STC House, 190, Strand, W.C.E.

## Trying to trade

From Mr. L. Clark

Sir—I thoroughly agree with Mr. R. Cohn (November 30) on exchange control restrictions, as any company has similar problems. The concession to EC88 which resulted in ability to retain profits up to 12 months, was made because I could not accept the "flag" of EC88 on 7 dated November 10, 1978. With the help of our bank, I telephoned the responsible officials at the Bank of England to discuss the situation, as a result of which the concession was agreed in writing on November 9, 1977, for my company, and all others to which it applied.

The latest problem, however, to which I still have not found an answer relates to goods purchased in Chinese Renminbi Yuan (RMB Y) for sale outside the UK. On November 7, 1978, I again telephoned the Bank of England, who agreed, that Chinese RMB Y is a controlled currency, and that when we are invoiced in RMB Y for goods being sold abroad we could not conform to EC88 regulations and re-invoicing in the same currency. It is not possible to operate a RMB Y merchanting account, the invoice from China to us has to be settled in sterling. I asked if we could invoice our buyers in sterling using the same rate of exchange, only to be informed we could invoice in any currency except sterling and RMB Y. Being a simple trader I asked how it suggested I quote prices, and how I would obtain the exchange rates necessary to conform to the requirements, need less to say there was no information on this point.

From the above it can be seen we are effectively barred from

## Letters to the Editor

conducting what is only legitimate business. It is more than frustrating as over the past 10 years we have promoted a product which has made us the world leader in its field and it is beginning to expand in a large way, and the present Bank of England policy can now mean our losing this position to foreign traders who are too keen to take advantage of regulations stopping us from trading. After all we could only earn profits from it, but no doubt as private traders using our own business, and not a nationalised concern this does not fit in with the "master plan."

Finally, I must fully agree with Mr. Cohn stating the main beneficiaries are the banks obtaining huge interest rates, etc., on the merchanting accounts.

I have this week written to our bank pointing out the intolerable situation that if one does not have the currency in any merchanting account to finance a transaction, under current methods used by them of switching monies from current to side accounts to cover merchanting borrowings, the effective rate of interest becomes 201 per cent. Can anyone be blamed for the setting up of the amalgamation with a company operating abroad where the earnings of money is encouraged not made so difficult?

L. W. Clark, B. W. Dano and Co., Hillbeck House, Roundwell, Beerside, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

## Observing pay policy

From Mr. D. Moss

Sir—The chart (December 6) showing the gross basic salaries of MPs in the EEC countries also reflects the state of the respective countries' economies.

Our MPs won't protest if philosophies applied to others are now applied to themselves.

Any increase they vote themselves should, presumably, be linked to: (a) a 5 per cent maximum; (b) a self-financing productivity scheme linked to demonstrable improvements in the country's economy; and (c) an attendance allowance.

If not, the British Public will, no doubt apply discretionary sanctions by firing them.

D. W. Moss, Beechwood, Box Lane, Bovingdon, Herts.

## Buses versus rail

From the Contributing Editor, Modern Transport

Sir—It might be a help if the debate on buses versus rail was conducted on a factual basis. According to the Department of Energy's Advisory Council on Energy Conservation, an inter-city express passenger train uses almost exactly twice the energy per seat kilometre of an express coach. For suburban services the train to bus ratio is between 1.5 and 2, while a double-decker bus and an Underground train are about comparable.

One lesson to be drawn from these figures is that as the facilities provided by road and rail become closer, so does the energy consumption. To put numbers to this proposition, take the case of a high-speed train which uses 0.34 megajoules of energy per seat kilometre and an inter-city coach which uses 0.20 megajoules. If one strips off the restaurant and buffet facilities plus toilets and first-class seating and fills the train with seatspacing itself out of the market,

## Transport in London

From the Chairman, North London Line Committee

Sir—While London's Docklands have a strategic plan in which transport and land-use investment proposals have been considered jointly, the same co-ordination appears sadly lacking in the inner city partnership areas.

For example Dalston is a preferred office location in Greater London development plan, and by North London line train is only five minutes from the City. The intervening district of Shoreditch and Haggerston is part of the Hackney/Islington partnership area, and Hackney Council state that this district urgently needs investment. The railway could offer much improved access if local stations were reopened.

Yet British Rail has proposed the closure of this direct route between Dalston and the City, without regard to these land-use factors. BR's alternative route, if built (and this is not certain), would double the journey time and fares to Dalston, and would miss Shoreditch and Haggerston. We must hope that Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Minister, will take fully into account the planning implications of BR's scheme.

The rest of the north London line is safe from closure. Revenues from off-peak tickets, for example, has more than doubled since 1975. BR, which in 1976 required GLC grant-aid for the regular 20 minute service, says that the line no longer needs this supplementary finance. There is scope for better marketing to attract further passenger traffic and revenue. And there is every reason to suppose that the line's extension via docklands to Woolwich will be just as successful.

Jonathan Roberts, North London Line Committee, 17, Kent Avenue, W13.

## Roll on the revolution

From Mr. A. Beard

Sir—It is not only the militants who are to blame for high unemployment; even respectable, agreement-observing trade unionists have fallen into the error of encouraging their members to seek ever higher rewards for ever lower output until labour has effectively priced itself out of the market. Fifty years ago we had a heavy engineering industry equal to the best in the world. Today it simply does not exist. The same can be said of other labour intensive industries.

It is very surprising that high unemployment, through labour

has come about through the actions of the very people who should have been looking at the reasons for their own unemployment. They seem never to have taken a long-term view.

One thing that is absolutely certain is that if unemployment is to be reduced it will not come about through conferring ever greater freedoms on the workers. The only way that it will be by management receiving some long overdue encouragement to improve productivity—the exact opposite of unions' teaching.

Businessmen who travel to the Eastern Bloc countries and see the way in which management is rewarded and helped by government departments and unions working for them, not against them, may be forgiven if they return home thinking "roll on the revolution."

A. L. Beard, Woodfield, Sparken Hill, Workson, Notts.

## The velocity of money

From Mr. T. Arthur

Sir—Mr. Golding (Dec. 5) argues that it is possible for all employers to increase their prices and maintain sales volume without an increase in the stock of money. "All that is required is that the existing money stock circulates somewhat faster," Mr. Golding is probably correct in saying that most monetarists accept this, relying on an assumption of stable velocity to support their quantity theory.

But is it correct or just another myth? Why should a faster velocity of money mean an increase in the price of goods? At each point of sale goods, as well as money, change hands and therefore one may as well argue that a faster velocity of goods causes a rise in the value of money (that is deflation).

To the extent that goods, like money, are durable there seems no reason to suppose that the price of goods relative to money should change. Non-durable goods may be different, but in any event a faster velocity of money would require more production to keep pace—in which case prices would fall to compensate.

Whichever way one looks at it, I find the argument unconvincing. Economists never talk about the value relationship between two sets of goods changing as a result of "faster velocity"—what is so special about money?

Surely the real point which invalidates the quantity theory of money is that its value vis-à-vis goods is determined by demand as well as supply (of both goods and money). If the demand to hold money reduces then its value will fall.

If the number of bargains made in the stock market increases as a result of buying pressure, stock prices will rise, but if the underlying pressure is to sell, the reverse will happen. The same goes for money and goods—if increased velocity is due to a higher demand for money then the price of goods will fall, not rise. They will rise only if the higher velocity is due to a lower demand for money. This is what happened during several of the great inflations; expanding the money supply increased price inflation disproportionately, because the very expansion caused people to distrust money and hence attempt to sell it for goods.

R. Arthur, 3, Valey Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham

## Today's Events

GENERAL

Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary for the Environment, presents the Government response to "Strategy for the South East Review."

European Parliament meets in Luxembourg (until December 15).

Central Bankers meet in Basel.

Appeal Court hearing on union recognition for white-collar workers in engineering industry.

Peak mourning period of Moharram—religious processions banned in Iran.

King Hussein of Jordan starts four-day official visit to France, dines with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée.

Public employees in Italy plan walk-out as part of campaign for wage increases.

U.S. diplomat Mr. Donald McHenry arrives in Angola.

Last day of Union of Post Office Workers' conference in Bournemouth.

Sir Kenneth Cork, Lord Mayor of London, attends Guild of Freemen dinner, Guildhall.

Price of a standard loaf rises by 1p.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Central Government financial transactions—including borrowing requirement for November

published by the Treasury.

Department of Trade releases provisional November figures for retail sales.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

House of Commons: Private Members' motions.

Northern Ireland orders on appropriation and above.

Select Committees: Expenditure on Education, Arts and Home Office.

Sub-Committee: Subject: Women and the penal system. Witnesses: Boards of Visitors of certain women's prisons/borstals. 4.15 pm.

Room 16.

Public Accounts Committee.

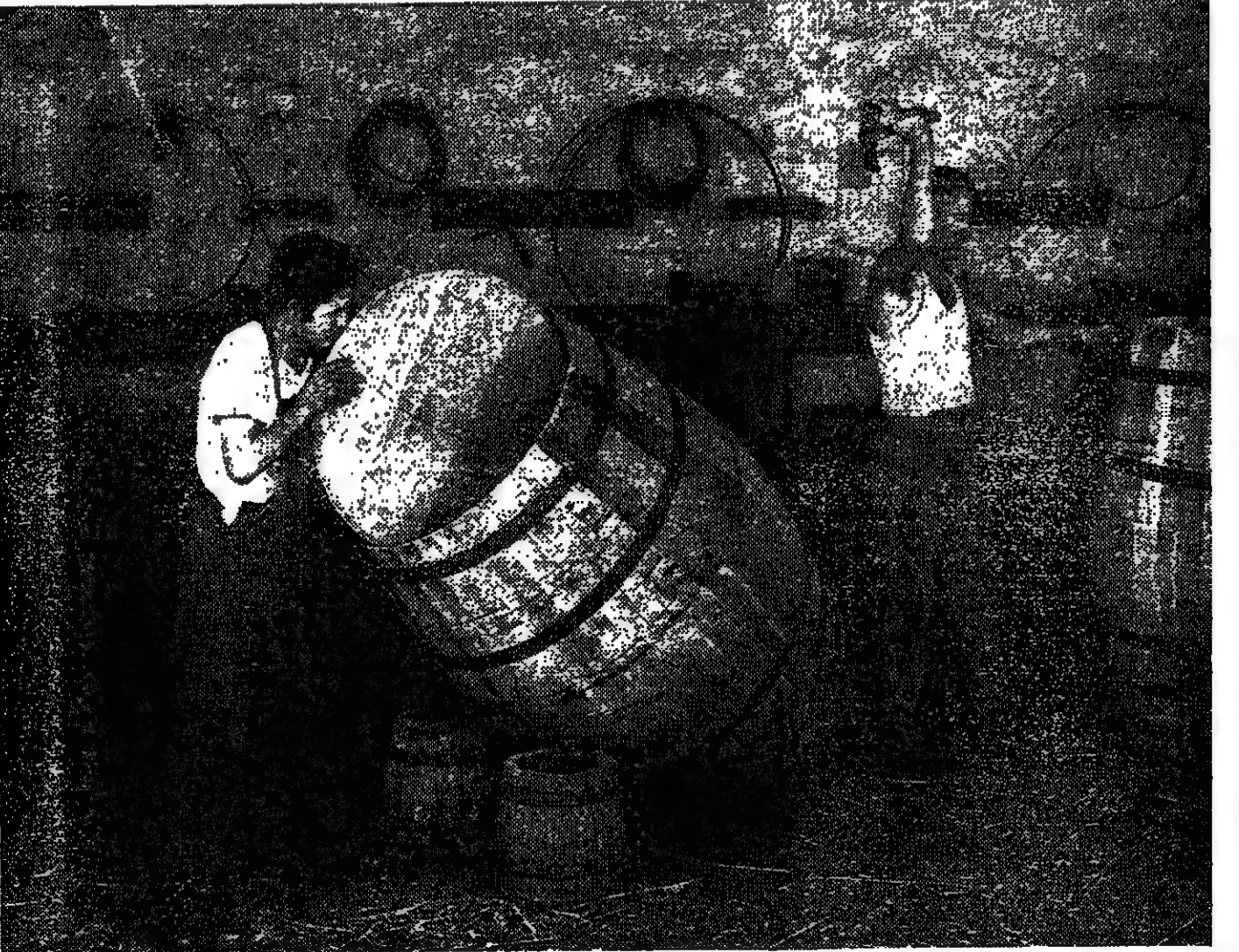
Subject: Cash Limits. 5 pm, Room 16.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: Management Agency and Music. Martin The Newsagent. Interim dividends: Barker and Dobson Group, N. Brown Investments, Curcio Engineering Group, May and Bassell, Alfred Freedy and Sons, Property Holding and Investment Trust, Rowlinson Construction Group, St. Georges Laundry (Worcester), South Crofts, R. W. Toothill, Whitcroft. Interim figures: Associated British Engineering, Ceelexion Industries.

COMPANY MEETINGS

See Financial Diary on page 28.



## Oak from the Americas. The true heart of a classic sherry.

Sherry was the first wine to cross the Atlantic from Europe. Indeed it probably travelled with Columbus, for the town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, near Jerez, was Columbus' home port.

By way of a compliment returned, American oak is exported to Spain to make the casks in which sherry matures. American oak helps impart to sherry its unique individuality; another of the mysteries which centuries of experience have proved but no amount



of science can explain. Thus the Americas play an important part in the development of classic finos and amontillados.

The classic fino is pale in colour and dry to taste with a delicate bouquet. Luncheon Dry is just such a fino. Serve it chilled to appreciate fully its true character.

The classic amontillado is allowed to mature for longer in oak, acquiring a richer colour and a subtle nutty flavour. Such is the character of Club Amontillado.

Luncheon Dry & Club Amontillado. Two classic styles of sherry from Harveys of Bristol.











# Uranium battle

BY LODESTAR

WHERE DO Australia's potential uranium miners stand now? Only a short while ago it looked as though the final hurdle had been surmounted. The partnership of the Government, Peko-Wallend and E2 Industries is due to take its Ranger deposit to production by 1982. Queensland Mines Narbarak should soon be heading for the same target date. E2 and Peko have indicated that their share of the Ranger project is committed to providing 72 per cent of the cost. So why is there a distinct lack of euphoria in the share market?

There are three reasons. Firstly, doubts are growing about the medium-term prospects for uranium demand. Sir Edward Cohen, E2 chairman, has said that because of existing supply contracts markets in the U.S. and Japan and Western Europe offered only limited prospects for Australian exports in the early 1980s.

Secondly, hopes that Australia's Labor Party opposition to uranium mining should die away have been dashed by its leader, Mr. Bill Hayden, who recently reiterated this policy with a warning to the companies their financiers and potential customers that Labor in power would "not be constrained by this Government's permissive uranium policy" adding that the uranium market did not look promising so there was no urgency to develop Australia's resources.

This was taken by the stock market as an indication that investment in uranium shares was a speculation. The present administration remaining in power during the early part of the next decade it being recognised that Labor would find it much more difficult to restrain an established industry than it would to halt development thereof during the construction period.

Thirdly, there is the prospect of strong competition in world markets from the big uranium finds in Canada's Saskatchewan province. This has been emphasised by Mr. Tom Gray, chairman of the frustrated Pancontinental company. He warns that "if a more vigorous approach to development does not occur soon,

# Lloyd's to provide dental costs cover

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A SIGNIFICANT gap in medical expenses cover, whether provided by the non-profit making provident institutions or by the insurance companies or Lloyd's underwriters, has been the lack of provision of the cost of dental treatment.

As far as I know, the only dental insurance commonly available has been under the medical expenses section of the average holiday travel policy, and even there, insurers limit their payments to urgent treatment. Perhaps because most people have a dread of going to the dentist, insurers reckon the cost of dental treatment forms an insignificant part of their holiday travel claims payout.

In the years since the war, the vast majority of Britons has used the dental service provided by the NHS. But with the advent of NHS treatment now hitting the patient's pocket, while many items now fall outside the scheme, and with some dentists leaving the State service, there is an opportunity for private insurance to step in, to meet the demand and to stimulate it further.

The problem for any insurer, providing cover for dental treatment, is to set the premium at sufficient level to contain claims costs and pay administration expenses—and, in the case of the proprietary company or Lloyd's underwriters, to make a profit. Seemingly, in the initial stages of any private enterprise dental expenses scheme, there must be the risk, if not the actuality, of considerable selection against insurers.

But now, dental expenses cover is being provided by Lloyd's, through the agency of AMA Dental Insurance Services, a newly formed division of Allied Medical Insurance Services, which has for some years been marketing Lloyd's-backed group health insurance policies.

The maximum amount payable under this scheme in any year of insurance is £500. Within this overall sum, underwriters have set a range of maximum benefits for the particular items of treatment. For example, £500 for root treatment, £500 a crown for gold crowling, £50 a denture for partial metal dentures. Much of the more expensive work is subject to a 25 per cent contribution by the patient unless the treatment is required as the result of what the prospectus calls "trauma" an

# Indices

NEW YORK—DOW JONES

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

# EUROPE

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

# FRIDAYS ACTIVE STOCKS

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

# Public Works Loan Board rates

Years	By H.P.	By M.P.	By L.P.	By H.P.	By M.P.	By L.P.
Up to 5	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Over 5, up to 10	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Over 10, up to 15	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
Over 15, up to 20	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2
Over 20	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2

# WALL STREET

NEW YORK	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
Alcoa	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Aluminum	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Aluminum	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Aluminum	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Aluminum	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2

# CANADA

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

# BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

# STOCKHOLM

Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	High	Low	High	Low
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40
111.15	110.80	110.50	110.20	110.00	109.80	109.60	109.40	111.15	109.40	111.15	109.40

High

SOFTEN

WEEK

مكتبات الصحف











Monday December 11 1978

هكنا من الأهل

Nation  
faces a  
critical  
year

IT IS the end of an extraordinary year, politically and economically, in the usually quiet life of Sierra Leone: a year which has seen the introduction of a one-party system of government and a rapid worsening of the country's balance of payments.

Freetown, the stately, sleepy capital, still displays its habitual backwater atmosphere of languid calm. It is the end of the rainy season and lush tropical vegetation sprouts everywhere—in gardens, in the streets and even in the cracked facades of decaying buildings.

In the mornings, neatly dressed schoolgirls in straw hats and blue tunics obediently line up for roll call. At lunchtime businessmen swap diamond gossip in the Paramount Hotel. At night, there are cosmopolitan parties reflecting Sierra Leone's long tradition of intellectual sophistication.

The country's 3m population, who must be among the most charming in West Africa, retain their easy-going ways. This is still a relatively happy country and, in an African context, relatively stable.

Yet behind the surface calm Sierra Leone is in the throes of what are probably its gravest financial difficulties since the nation gained independence from Britain in 1961.

The effects are only just beginning to reach the man in the street: at IMF insistence, the government devalued its currency by 5 per cent recently and a much larger devaluation is still widely expected. Another article in this survey details the reasons for the economic difficulties, which ultimately stem from the Government's inability to cut its suit according to its cloth. Expenditure has been leaping ahead of revenues and much of that expenditure is for

the 1980 Organisation of African Unity conference to be held in Freetown.

Hosting the OAU summit is regarded as one of the highest points of President Siaka Stevens' political career.

But if expenditure is not curbed drastically in the next few months serious disquiet could set into the economy and this, in turn, would have major political implications. Student demonstrations at the start of 1977 showed just how suddenly grievances can spring to the surface.

## Ironie

It is ironic that the country's economic ailments should become so serious shortly after the introduction of a one-party system of government which—whatever one's views of the move—does seem to have reduced the level of political conflict, at least for the moment.

The idea of a one-party system is not new in Sierra Leone. It was proposed in the mid-1960s by the then ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), led by Sir Albert Margai, and on that occasion was bitterly opposed by the opposition All People's Congress (APC), led by Siaka Stevens.

Since then, the roles have been reversed: in 1974 it was Stevens, by now the President, who saw merit in a single-party system, while this

was bitterly denounced by Mr. Salia Jusu Sheriff, the then leader of the SLPP opposition.

But it was only in the wake of the May 1977 General Elections that the Government began to talk with urgency about the introduction of a single-party constitution, even though this poll saw 15 SLPP candidates returned to Parliament after four years without representation in the 100-seat House.

Certainly, neither the 1973 nor 1977 elections could be called exercises in peaceful, multi-party democracy—there was considerable violence during the last campaign by supporters of both the APC and SLPP. As in 1973 numerous opposition candidates reported that they had been prevented physically from putting in their nomination papers. (47 APC members were returned unopposed).

President Stevens declared the time was now ripe to turn Sierra Leone's de facto one-party system into a de jure one and he set about demolishing the SLPP parliamentary opposition through a combination of blandishments and threats.

The seats of several SLPP MPs including Mr. Charles Margai, the son of Sir Albert, were declared vacant because the incumbents had been absent from the house for more than 30 days. They had been absent because they had been detained

by the Government ever since the election.

In large measure, the Government's tactics succeeded. There was little public opposition, either from the SLPP or from the wider Sierra Leone community in May this year when the administration introduced a Bill to establish a one-party state.

The Government brushed aside Mr. Sheriff's argument that the 1971 constitution could only be scrapped by a two-thirds majority in two parliaments with a General Election in between. Instead, the Government tested opinion by calling a snap referendum in June which the SLPP claimed was rigged. Certainly official returns would suggest that the population of Sierra Leone had grown somewhat overnight.

Only two SLPP MPs, including Mr. Sheriff, stood out against the bill until it became law in mid-June and then, bowing to the inevitable, these two declared for the APC rather than losing their seats in Parliament.

The manner of its introduction apart, might the one-party system be in Sierra Leone's best interests? The Government argues with some justice that a multi-party system was thrust on the country by the departing British who had themselves ruled the territory autocratically and had not prepared the people for a Westminster model.

The preamble to the new constitution states that the multi-party system has continued to breed "disharmony, tribal animosities, and military takeovers."

There is undoubtedly truth in this. The politics of Sierra Leone have divided very much on tribal lines, even though factional interests cut across this. The SLPP has always been strongest in the south and associated particularly with the Mende who make up about 30 per cent of the population.

Similarly, the APC has been identified more with the northern tribes, especially the Temne, who make up 30 per cent of the population. It was during the 1967 General Election that the death knell for multi-party democracy in Sierra Leone was probably first sounded: the SLPP was defeated but the army commander, apparently at the behest of Sir Albert Margai, intervened.

Shortly after, the commander was himself arrested by middle-ranking officers who formed a military regime for a year until a counter-coup brought Siaka Stevens back to power. Essentially then, neither of the two parties has been willing to cede power gracefully via the ballot box.

Despite arguments in favour of a one-party system, there is still a substantial body of opinion in the south of the country which opposes the

new constitution or merely acquiesced in its introduction.

Those people argue that for all its defects the multi-party system was better and at the very least a check on the abuse of office.

It is impossible to judge at this stage whether the one-party system will prove to be in the country's best interest. Much will depend on precisely how it will be worked.

For example the constitution provides for primary elections in each constituency, from which the two people who poll the most votes will go forward as candidates in the election proper. If worked fairly, this could allow representatives of genuine grass roots opinion to emerge. But the constitution also provides for the APC Central Committee to disqualify candidates if it considers their nomination "inimical to the interests of the state." This could allow the Government to pack Parliament with yes-men.

## Protests

The latter could be a dangerous position in a country where power and wealth is concentrated in the hands of a small, cushioned elite.

The student demonstrations last year showed how popular grievances can be fanned into flames. The demonstrations began with a protest against the

President by students at Fourah Bay College, and spread to schoolchildren in Freetown and as far away as Kenema in the south-east of the country.

The demonstrators also highlighted two grievances which normally lie beneath the surface: allegations of high-level corruption and resentment against the Lebanese trading community, whose economic muscle is probably greater than in other west coast countries.

For the moment, however, the introduction of a one-party State does seem to have brought some respite from political infighting. President Stevens, who is a remarkably skilful politician, has released all the country's remaining political detainees and has brought several former SLPP members into his Government. It is believed that Mr. Sheriff himself could have had a seat in the cabinet if he had wanted to take one, but for the moment he prefers to stay out of the limelight.

President Stevens is now officially said to be 73 years old and although in good health, there is inevitably speculation as to who will eventually succeed him. The strongest contender is Mr. S. I. Koroma, the first vice-president, but his health is said to be poor and he is also thought to have made some strong political enemies.

At present, however, President Stevens remains firmly in

## BASIC STATISTICS

Area	27,925 sq miles
Population	3.47m
GNP (1976)	Le 603.5m
Per capita	Le 194.05144
Trade (1977):	
Imports	Le 206.20m
Exports	Le 128.14m
Imports from UK	£19.730m
Exports to UK	£40.058m
Currency	Leones: £1 = Le 2

control and the country's stability is due in no small measure to his careful balancing of political forces. More than any other politician, he can speak for the nation.

Ever since an abortive military coup in 1971, the President has been careful to keep the small 3,000-strong army happy, well provided with equipment, subsidised food and smart barracks. At the same time, he has set up a counterweight to the army—the para-military Internal Security Unit. Members of this force have been trained in Cuba and by a small number of Cubans in Sierra Leone.

For continued political stability, it is clearly important that the Government overcomes the current economic crisis. So far, however, the signs have not been particularly encouraging.

In return for urgently needed credit tranches, the IMF has demanded that the Government keep public sector salaries frozen while devaluing the Leone, and that it keep a close check on its runaway budget deficit and stop piling up short-term debts through contractor finance and suppliers' credit. But while devaluing recently, the Government went completely against the IMF demands in announcing civil service wage increases of between 10-25 per cent—presumably in an attempt to keep domestic political support in wake of devaluation.

These pay increases will only add to the budget deficit which was 200 per cent above target in the first quarter of the financial year alone. Meanwhile, the Government keeps on borrowing at home and abroad building up a bubble which, despite the deceptive calm of Freetown, seems certain to burst if sharp corrective action is not taken in the very near future.

THE  
SIERRA LEONE  
PRODUCE MARKETING  
BOARD

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board operates a promotion branch in London, which is responsible for disseminating information about the Board and its current activities and for all other enquiries.

## PRODUCE EXPORTED:

PALM KERNELS

COFFEE

COCOA

GINGER

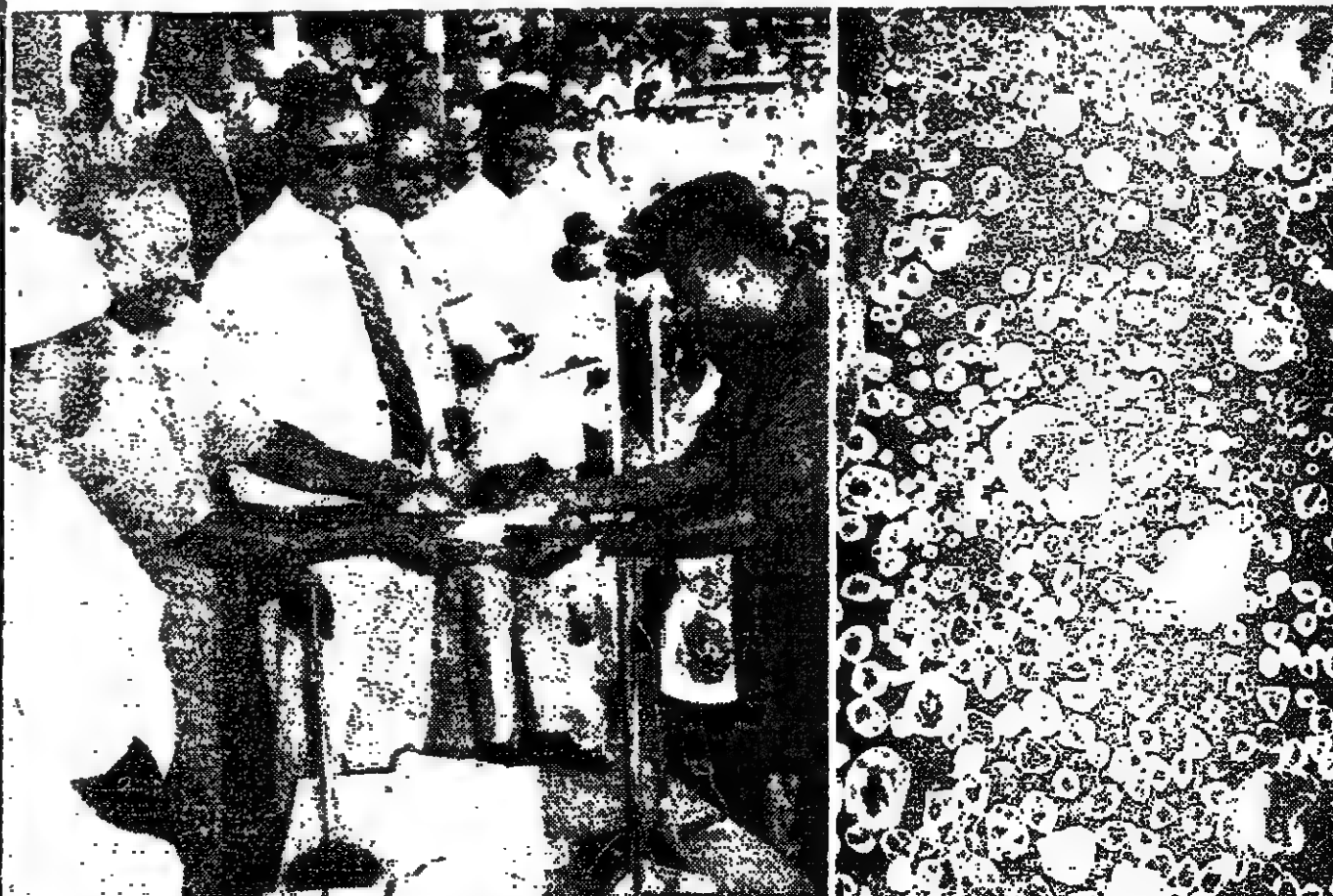
BENNISEED

## HEADQUARTERS

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board,  
P.O. Box 508,  
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Cline Town, Freetown,  
Sierra Leone.  
Telephone: Freetown 50431.  
Telex: Freetown 3211  
Telegrams: "SILPROBOD" Freetown.

## LONDON BRANCH OFFICE

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board,  
7th Floor Plantation House,  
4/15 Mincing Lane,  
London EC3M 3DX.  
Telephone: 01-623 2141.  
Telex: 884514.  
Cables: "SILPRODCO" London.

DICORWAF promotes agricultural  
development in Sierra Leone by  
donating shields, medallions,  
agricultural tools and certificates

President Siaka Stevens (second from left) presenting one of Dicorwaf's shields to a Paramount chief for commendable farming achievements, watched by Dicorwaf's resident director on the President's left.

A selection of rough diamonds

## The Diamond Corporation West Africa Limited

25-27 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone



## SIERRA LEONE II

## Nation facing financial crisis

SIERRA LEONE is in the throes of what is probably its worst financial crisis since independence.

Nothing illustrates this more clearly than the discussions the Government has been having with the International Monetary Fund over the past five months on Sierra Leone's request to draw on its second, third and fourth tranches of IMF standby aid.

The Government needs the money to ameliorate severe balance of payments difficulties which are, however, due in large measure to the administration's inability to curb its extra-budgetary expenditure.

Sierra Leone's unblocked foreign exchange reserves were down to Leones 3.6m by early last month—less than one week's coverage for imports—and a pipeline of arrears for import payments of more than Leones 10m had built up.



Rice, the staple food of Sierra Leone, being prepared at a village near Freetown. Rice is by far the most important crop, accounting for 62 per cent of land under cultivation.

## Urgent

The IMF aid is urgently needed, yet Sierra Leone seems to be adopting a rather cavalier approach to IMF requests for tighter financial controls. Last month, for example, the Government agreed to an IMF demand for a devaluation of the Leone but then, going against the Fund's advice, it announced a 25 per cent rise of between 10 and 25 per cent—at a time when existing commitments are severely straining its borrowing capacity.

Yet the one over-riding question facing Sierra Leone now is whether the Government can stick to a strict financial regimen and drastically curb expenditure. It will be far from easy, not least because Sierra Leone is committed to hosting the 1980 Organisation of African Unity summit conference, which is already proving a substantial drain on funds.

The next six to 12 months are likely to prove crucial to the health of the economy for many years to come. If Sierra Leone can discipline itself, then what has traditionally been a sluggish yet well-balanced economy by African standards can remain on an even keel.

If the country does not discipline itself, the consequences could be extremely serious with a combination of deficit financing and devaluation fuelling inflation.

The backdrop to the current crisis has been the rapid erosion of the country's export base—minerals—during the 1970s. Production of diamonds, for long a mainstay of the economy, has dropped sharply from around 2m carats in 1970 to around 700,000 last year. The reason is simple: after more than 40 years of production, Sierra Leone's easiest and most profitable deposits have been mined out.

However, the country has been given a breathing space since major increases in the price of diamonds have to a considerable extent offset the effects of falling production.

Three years ago the Sierra Leone development company, DELCO, the country's sole iron ore producer, closed down because its mine was no longer profitable, thus depriving the country of 10 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.

Unfortunately, Sierra Leone had not put sufficient stress on its agricultural sector sufficiently early to counter the effects of declining mineral production, which could have been foreseen for some time.

The result was slow growth (Sierra Leone's real growth rate during the 1970s has probably been less than the population growth rate of 2.6 per cent a year) and a deteriorating balance of payments.

On top of all this came a factor totally outside the Government's control—the 1973-1974 oil price rises which hit Sierra Leone particularly hard because it is dependent on oil for virtually its entire energy needs.

With cumulative deterioration in the terms of international trade of the order of 40 per cent between 1973 and 1975, and with a much more rapid decline in mineral production between 1974-75 and 1976-77, the country began to suffer severe budgetary and balance of payments problems.

During the past two years dramatic increases in the price of diamonds and the 1976-77 boom in coffee and cocoa have helped save the country from even more serious difficulties.

Even so, there was an overall balance of payments deficit of Le 30m in 1976 and this was only reduced to Le 7m the following year thanks to an inflow of IMF assistance and Paris Club debt relief.

It was in June, 1977, that the IMF stepped in with SDRs 9.03m. Sierra Leone's first credit tranche, and later in the year the Government obtained relief of Le 23.3m on interest and principal due to the Paris Club nations (that is its European creditors) between mid-1976 and mid-1978.

However, as the government's latest draft annual plan acknowledges, additional resources were used principally for increasing current consumption through larger imports of consumer goods and an increase in Government's recurrent expenditure.

"Thus," the plan observes, "because of ineffective financial management, especially as regards public spending, the benefits which the economy would have received, in terms of reduced budgetary deficits or an

impetus to public investment in development projects, did not materialise."

It was against this background that an IMF mission visited Sierra Leone last June, at the end of the financial year, for preliminary discussions on the country's new borrowing request.

The position it found was not encouraging, especially since the Government had promised, under the first credit tranche, to restrain expenditure and to keep a close rein on short-term contractor finance and suppliers' credits.

As of the end of June, the Government's total external debt was estimated at Le217.9m (45 per cent) of this Le97.6m (45 per cent) was represented by suppliers' credits and contractor finance—a rise of 47 per cent on a year earlier. The debt servicing ratio was estimated to be in the region of 26 per cent—unhealthily high.

The Government had also been borrowing heavily internally. According to Central Bank figures, outstanding internal debt amounted to Le109m—a 67 per cent rise on a year earlier.

In April the country's foreign exchange reserves had been at a record level Le61.5m, yet by the end of June this had been reduced to Le43.5m, of which Le22.06m were blocked to provide cover for suppliers' credits backed by irrevocable letters of credit.

## Deficit

And for the financial year ending in June the budget deficit had risen to Le78.7m—an increase of 193 per cent over the previous year's figure and 33 per cent of total expenditure.

So serious was Sierra Leone's position considered to be that President Stevens himself went to Washington in October for talks with the IMF, where the officials insisted that he devalue the Leone as a pre-condition for any further standby assistance.

As a result, Sierra Leone and since then, the Government

de-linked the Leone from sterling at the start of last month and pegged it to the SDR at a new rate which represented a 5 per cent devaluation in sterling. However, the IMF is understood to believe that the Leone is still over-valued by about 15 per cent and a gradual depreciation by this amount is widely expected before the end of the year, even though the Bank of Sierra Leone is trying to quash speculation to this effect.

Evaluation is now a highly controversial issue in Freetown, with many people arguing that it is the last thing the country needs at this time: it will fuel inflation (already at about 20 per cent) and in the short term, add to the financing difficulties and send an inflationary ripple of pay demands coursing through the wage sector of the economy.

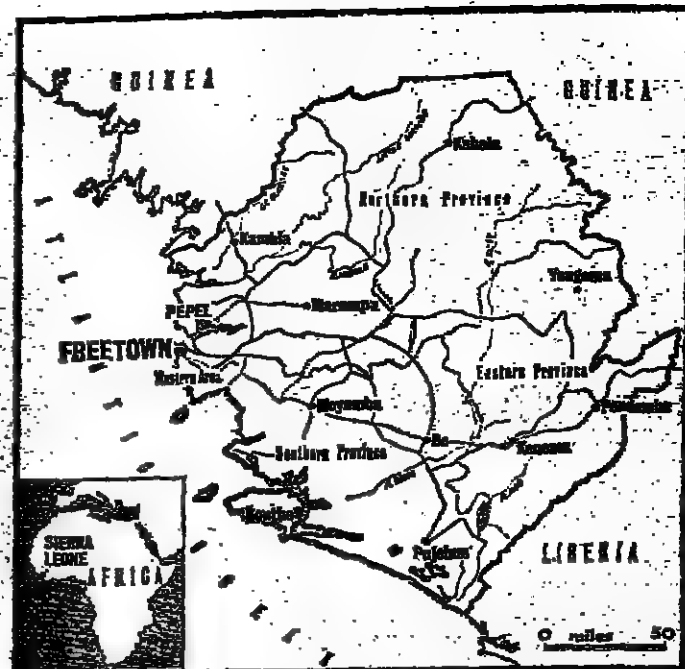
Sierra Leone can therefore expect some very tough negotiations with the IMF, who will be particularly keen to know precisely the Government's financial commitments: until cocoa and coffee prices moderated, Sierra Leone is expecting a reasonable crop of each this year thanks to good weather.

Moreover, under any standby agreement, IMF representatives will be placed in the Bank of Sierra Leone to monitor performance and this the OAU conference, meanwhile, could help in restructuring the Government overdraft with expenditure.

On the negative side, the OAU conference may still not stage, even though Government officials maintain that the planned expenditure has been slashed from Le200m to less than Le150m.

The fate of the economy seems delicately poised. President Stevens is expected to have returned from Washington determined to set his economic house in order.

Certainly the future of the country's economy will ultimately depend on the degree of political will to build power and muscle—or lack of it—displayed from the top.



has announced the civil generally, the Government's servants pay rises of between 10 and 20 per cent, which will depend on the IMF negotiations. But even assuming the IMF aid does come through, this will be no automatic solution to Sierra Leone's difficulties. What ever the outcome, the country will face a tough time in the coming year.

## Reports

There are reports of a significant rise in suppliers' credits since the Bank of Sierra Leone to June, much of it connected with the OAU conference. Meanwhile, the Government overdraft with expenditure.

This is hardly likely to please a lot to stage, even though Government officials maintain that the planned expenditure has been slashed from Le200m to less than Le150m.

The fate of the economy seems delicately poised. President Stevens is expected to have returned from Washington determined to set his economic house in order.

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## Prosperity hinges on agricultural sector

THE FUTURE prosperity of this sector was given a mere 11.4 per cent of the total. This year it will receive 23 per cent which, after years of relative neglect, is now receiving more from foreign aid donors.

But there is still a very long way to go. As Mr. Sam Bangura, the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, commented in a speech last month: "Sierra Leone's agricultural structure has not changed much. The process of agricultural transformation is still not encouraging. Growth in the agricultural sector is still relatively low."

The statistics support this view. Production of the country's two most important export crops, cocoa and coffee, has been virtually static for years.

In 1977/78, the agricultural sector is officially estimated to have grown, in real terms, by just 1.1 per cent (4.3 per cent in 1976/77), while this financial year a growth rate of 1.5 per cent is forecast.

Nevertheless, a greater commitment to agriculture has been evident in the Government in recent years, prompted in part by the rapid decline in the country's diamond mining industry and, in part, by the recent high world prices for cocoa and coffee.

## Message

The IMF and World Bank have also been stressing to the Government the importance of a long-term restructuring of the economy in favour of agriculture and this message does seem to have sunk home.

The Government's shift of emphasis can be seen in the major new plans being drawn up by the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board (SLPMB) for an extension of export crop cultivation on both estate and smallholder basis. It is keen to attract foreign investment, particularly to coffee farming. The new attitude is also evident in pricing policy adopted in recent years. A greater proportion of export receipts are finding their way back to the farmers, although observers believe there is still room for substantial improvement here so that farmgate prices more accurately reflect international prices.

The Government's greater emphasis on farming is also evident in the larger share of the development budget allocated to agriculture. In 1973/74

Two major integrated schemes are already in operation, both of them sponsored by the World Bank. One in the east involves the production of cocoa, rice, from inland swamps and oil palm, with outgrowers around a nucleus estate. (The Produce Marketing Board experimented with oil palm plantations in the 1960s but this operation went seriously wrong and the country is still not self-sufficient in palm oil.)

Another World Bank scheme, in the north, concentrates on upland and swamp rice — and groundnuts — and is also experimenting with cattle ranching.

A third integrated scheme, funded by the EEC, is about to get under way in the north-east of the country, in the Koinadugu area. A major element of this will be the provision of a good road to the south, along which the wide range of fruit and vegetables which the area seems suited for could be brought to market.

It is in the Koinadugu area that a large proportion of Sierra Leone's nomadic cattle herdsmen are found. The EEC scheme will include some cattle ranches on a trial and demonstration basis.

It is still too early to judge the success of the integrated programme in Sierra Leone but it could present problems. For one thing, integrated programmes are very demanding on personnel and although Sierra Leone is trying to train more agricultural workers, its ratio of this kind of personnel to farmers is still very low (one to 2,000, according to official estimates).

Moreover, as integrated programmes develop they eat more and more into recurrent budget costs, and there must be doubts whether the country will be able to foot the bill if the present economic climate persists.

In tandem with the integrated Development Scheme, the Produce Marketing Board is about to launch a major new programme to boost production of cocoa (7,800 tons were exported in 1977/78), coffee (8,400 tons) and ginger (642 tons).

It also aims to increase production of chillies and to add groundnuts to the export list. The plans for coffee are particularly ambitious. The board wants to set up a series of estates which would have a substantial foreign shareholding and would be run by expatriate management.

Partnership arrangements of a company basis between the land owner, the Government, and groups of foreign investors would be one solution. Another could be co-operative ownership, which would tend towards absentee ownership and exploitation. It would be preferable to aim at establishing "secure and interlocking economic climate persists."

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## PRESIDENT STEVENS — AN INSPIRED LEADER



Dr. Walter Stevens, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Very few statesmen have been so dedicated to their country's development as President Stevens. Dr. Stevens' ten years of leadership, during which he has displayed unparalleled qualities of political maturity, integrity and sagacity culminating in the

fulfilment of his dreams for the nation, when on June 14, 1978, Sierra Leone achieved One-Party Republican Status.

Taking up the reins of leadership at a time when the nation was almost shattered by strong tribal feelings, when politics had divided the country and families into rival camps, President Stevens, in the space of ten years, has achieved what seemed impossible by bringing all Sierra Leoneans, regardless of political differences, under one umbrella.

Political pessimists had speculated that the introduction of a One Party System in Sierra Leone would be characterised by disturbances and bloodshed. They were, however, amazed by the spontaneous nation-wide support the One Party Referendum received from the population including former SLPP opposition members both at home and abroad.

In his annual Presidential Address at the Official Opening of the One Party Parliament last June, President Stevens referred to the smooth transition to the One Party System and said that since independence Sierra Leone had experimented with various kinds of governments—multi-party; quasi two party Parliamentary between APC and SLPP; Military government; coalition; and near single party under both the SLPP and APC. None of these had worked and the nation had been on the verge of civil war on several occasions, induced by inter-tribal fear and mistrust.

President Stevens said it was unfortunate that some people had come to identify democracy as the existence of several political parties.

"This is a delusion no doubt bred by misunderstanding and incomplete knowledge since

even in its original form, democracy was never conceived to be this; and down to recent times, the meaning of democracy has generally been conceived to be government by participation and representation.

"One of the most acceptable definitions is that provided by the American President, Abraham Lincoln, who defined it as 'Government by the people, for the people and for the people.' There is nothing said here about parties," President Stevens maintained.

The President urged all to respect the rights and privileges of Sierra Leoneans in particular and Africans in general to decide on the kind of democracy or political system they choose to adopt and practise.

The tremendous support for the One Party System not only showed itself in the Referendum results but also in the hundreds of delegations from all over the country which thronged State House to express unequivocal support for the new system.

This massive support is a reflection of the sterling qualities of President Stevens, whose inspired leadership has endeared him to his people. His achievements are testimonies of his dedication to duty, simplicity, humility, magnanimity, resourcefulness and respect for the opinions of others. His life is a chronicle of heroic deeds, imbued with honesty, fearlessness, truth, tolerance and humanitarianism. By his ingenuity, Sierra Leone is today enjoying unprecedented peace, tranquillity, and political and economic stability.

In international circles, President Stevens has equally won the respect and admiration of several world leaders and is looked upon as an elder statesman on the Continent.



Tobacco Plantation in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone.

## THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Like many developing countries, Sierra Leone has a dual economy. The non-monetised sector consists largely of subsistence agriculture which accounts for over 70 per cent of the labour force. The monetised sector is dominated by the mining industry, diamonds and bauxite being the predominant minerals.

Real GDP in 1978/79 was Le480.78 million rising to Le598.82 million in 1977/78 indicating a growth rate of 24 per cent per annum during this period. The economic activities of the country over the last ten years have shown that Sierra Leone has an open developing economy. Its economic growth rate has been largely determined by the fluctuating external demand for her primary products.

The close relationship between the GDP and exports in Sierra Leone is explained by the fact that Government receipts, largely determined by the ability of foreign exchange to import capital goods are all highly dependent on export earnings.

**FOREIGN TRADE:** Foreign Trade plays an important part in the Sierra Leone economy. The country's exports are mainly raw materials dominated by the mining sector with a share of about 78.4 per cent of the total value of exports, diamonds alone accounting for 61.5 per cent of this total. The share of agriculture in the total value of exports is about 21.5 per cent.

From 1971-1975, exports consisted of only six commodities: diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, palm kernels, cocoa and coffee. Iron Ore is no longer exported since the Delco Mines closed down in 1975.

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board (SLPMB) is the statutory Agency with sole monopoly for the marketing of export crops and fixing producer prices. It buys produce from farmers at fixed prices each buying season and then sells in overseas markets at the best prices obtaining at the time.

In years of buoyant prices, the Board tends to accumulate surpluses, which in turn are used to support prices paid to farmers in years when prices are depressed on the world market.

This high concentration of exports makes the economy very dependent on the prices dictated by the foreign buyer which is determined by supply and demand existing at the time for those commodities.

Sierra Leone is a large importer of not only intermediate goods (raw materials used in the production of final output) and capital goods but also consumer goods. In 1977 imports consisted of food beverages and tobacco,

crude materials, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, animal and vegetable oils and fats, chemicals, manufactured goods and machinery and transport equipment.

**AGRICULTURE:** Sierra Leone's agriculture is the most important sector of the economy. It provides a livelihood for over 75 per cent of the population, and contributes about 30 per cent of GDP.

The major crops grown are rice, cocoa, groundnuts, cassava, ginger, maize, some varieties of vegetables, and banana. Millet is an important minor crop in some areas of the country. Rice is the staple food, is the most important single crop, and is being cultivated on 808,000 acres by about 81 per cent of farmers in all parts of the country.

Rice, cassava, ground nuts, maize and other crops are grown exclusively for home consumption, but with the increased production of rice over the past two years, it is estimated that the country will start exporting rice shortly.

The majority of farmers have smallholdings in a system of "shifting cultivation". Farming is a fairly recent development, and the few that are established are owned, and are confined to crops which require expensive machinery and lengthy processing, e.g. oil palm, rubber and sugar cane.

The Government is giving every encouragement towards the establishment of large-scale farming aimed at increasing the supply of export crops as well as providing raw materials for agro-based industries.

Conscious of the complicated nature of the problems of farmers, the Government attaches great importance to the integrated approach to agricultural development. This approach offers "package deals" to the farmer, including extension and trading, credit, infrastructure and marketing facilities.

Livestock, pig and poultry production are also important agricultural activities. The country's livestock consists of cattle, goats and sheep, concentrated in the savannah area in the North-East. Production, however, is insufficient to meet the entire needs of the population, and substantial quantities are imported from overseas producing countries.

Other areas with great potential are fishing and forestry. The five-year National Development Plan (1973/75-1978/79) provides for full exploitation and rational use of forest resources.

**MINING:** Sierra Leone is potentially very rich in mineral resources, and the exploitation of known deposits of diamonds, iron ore and bauxite over the years provides the bedrock for the present economic structure of the country.

Only two-thirds of the country has been geographically mapped, and the geology of the remainder is only roughly known.

The main importance of mining in the economy is brought out clearly by its contribution to export earnings and to public revenue. Export of minerals have contributed about 80 per cent of the total value of domestic exports during the last fifteen years, with exports of diamonds accounting for about 60 per cent. The iron ore mining company, DELCO, ceased operations in October, 1975, resulting in a substantial decrease in revenue from the mining sector.

**DIMINCO,** the diamond mining company, has experienced substantial decline in its level of production over the past few years. Production declined by 28.8 per cent from 1,083,000 carats in 1976 to 771,000 carats in 1977. There are a few reasons for the fall in production. Despite combined efforts by the Government and the company, illicit mining continues on a large scale. Again, the high cost of spare parts has tended to reduce profitability. Falling production has, however, been offset by the rising unit value of diamonds.

However, it is expected that production would increase when DIMINCO embarked on Kimberlite mining in its lease area.

The Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (SILEROMCO) has been mining bauxite at Makeni Hills, Southern Province since 1963. The company is wholly owned by Alusuisse of Switzerland. Sileromco has continued its expansion programme with a view to increased production. Bauxite production rose by 11.4 per cent from 450,600 metric tons in 1976 to 500,600 metric tons in 1977.

The Government is presently engaged in negotiations with the Swiss Aluminium Company, Alusuisse, for the exploitation of the Port Loko bauxite deposit, and it is expected that negotiations will be concluded soon. The Government is expected to participate in the equity of the new company.

Rutile is mined by Sierra Rutile Company, a company jointly owned by the giant multinational Bethlehem Steel Corporation and Nord Resources. The company has completed the evaluation of Rutile deposits in the Moyamba and Bonthe Districts and production of rutile ore is expected to commence next month (January, 1979).

**MANUFACTURING:** Industry and manufacturing in Sierra Leone are of recent origin. Centred mainly in Freetown, the country's largest market, industries are engaged in the local assembly or part manufacture of goods which were hitherto imported. In most cases, the raw materials used in the manufacturing are imported from

## SIERRA LEONE TAKES BOLD STEP TO BRING STABILITY TO ITS ECONOMY

Within the past few years, the economic development in Sierra Leone has had its own share of inflation and shortage of foreign exchange. Consequently, significant development projects have been hindered, while the country has been labouring under a somewhat sluggish domestic economy, which was subjected to the performance of the pound sterling to which its currency was tied.

Over a third of the country's imports were from UK sources. Therefore any inflationary move in Britain was reflected locally. Domestic inflation in the UK reflected directly on the value of the Leone, with a consequent fall in the country's export earnings and a rise in import bills and public debt repayments. Moreover the pound was now

strengthened by Britain's oil production and may, therefore, prove too strong for Sierra Leone's weaker economy.

These factors, over which the Sierra Leone Government had very little control, coupled with other factors including the fluctuation of world prices and soaring oil prices, had a very adverse effect on the economy.

With a view to bringing stability to the economy, Government recently announced the de-linking of the Leone from the British pound sterling as the first positive step towards this goal.

The Leone is now pegged to the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (Le1 = SDR 73811) giving it a weighted averaged gross rate which is more stable in a world of floating exchange rates.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Area: 27,925 sq. mls.  
Population: 3,470,000  
GDP: Le496.82m (1977/78)

**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (1977)**  
Palm Kernels: 31,350 tons  
Coffee: 10,541 tons  
Cocoa: 4,663 tons  
Ginger: 5,447 tons  
Rice: 577,500 tons

**MINERAL PRODUCTION (1977)**  
Diamonds: 771,000 carats  
Bauxite: 725,000 metric tons

**FOREIGN TRADE (1977)**  
Total imports: Le206,207,000  
Total exports: Le128,147,000  
Re-exports: Le3,741,000

**EDUCATION (1977)**  
Primary schools: 1,100  
Primary school pupils: 218,379  
Secondary schools: 129  
Secondary school pupils: 50,455  
Technical & Vocational schools: 4  
Technical & Vocational school pupils: 1,690  
Teacher Training Colleges: 6  
Teacher Training College students: 1,656  
University (with 2 constituent colleges): 1  
University students: 1,690

## SOME INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- \* Exemption from import duty on raw materials up to 90% of the dutiable value of such imports; total exemption from import duties on machinery and construction materials
- \* Exemption from income tax for a period which will depend on the size, scope and nature of the investment
- \* Special incentives for profit reinvestment: special incentives for export: tariff protection and restriction on competing imports. Deferment of depreciation allowance until the end of the tax holiday period

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## SIERRA LEONE IV



A Britten-Norman Trislander of Sierra Leone Airways flies low over the Bintumani Hotel at Cape Palmas. The hotel, part of the soon-to-be-completed conference centre complex, is managed by CHM Hotels.

# New plans to boost mining sector

**DIAMONDS** HAVE been the mainstay of the Sierra Leone economy for decades, but production is now falling rapidly and the country is having to adjust painfully to the realisation that its reserves are not forever.

Nevertheless, strong world demand has given the country an invaluable breathing space: Sierra Leone's falling production has been largely offset up to now by some dramatic increases in the price of diamonds. As a result they still dominate the country's list of exports, accounting for 56.6 per cent of foreign exchange earnings in the financial year to last June.

A second major blow to the country's mining sector during the past few years has been the ending of iron ore production in 1975. The Sierra Leone Development Company (DELCO) decided that its iron ore mine was no longer financially viable and it went into liquidation, depriving the country of around 10 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.

Against this gloomy background two more positive developments are taking place in the mining sector. First, Sierra Leone is on the verge of resuming production of rutile, which is used in the manufacture of paints.

Secondly, feasibility studies are being mounted into the possibility of opening up new bauxite reserves in the north of the country. Neither of these developments will anywhere near compensate in financial terms for the loss of diamond production, but they will provide some consolation.

## Decline

The decline in diamond production has been rapid in recent years, with falls of between 20 and 30 per cent a year recorded since 1973-74. Diamond exports, which had totalled just over 2m carats in 1971-72 were down to 707,000 carats in 1977-78.

The effects have been ameliorated by some remarkable world price increases. Diamond prices rose 15 per cent in March 1977 and 17 per cent the following December, while this year has seen a price rise of 30 per cent in August in the wake of temporary increases, referred to as surcharges, which were imposed by the Central Selling Organisation on sales to its clients and which at one time reached 40 per cent.

As a result, although Sierra Leone's diamond exports fell 26.4 per cent in 1977-78 over the previous year, the value of exports went up by 64.7 per cent.

The major reason for the production decline is simply that after 40 years of operations, the majority of Sierra Leone's easiest and most profitable deposits have been mined out, leaving more inaccessible and deeper ones to be worked. This means much higher capital expenditure on mining equipment, while the deeper ground normally contains smaller diamonds than those found in shallow deposits.

The depletion affects each of the two branches into which the Sierra Leone diamond mining industry is divided: large-scale corporate operations and small scale diggers. The large scale consists of DIMINCO (which was known as Sierra Leone Selection Trust until the Government took a 51 per cent stake in 1970).

DIMINCO has exclusive mining rights in two concession areas—one large and one small—and produces just under half of Sierra Leone's official output.

In the field of trade, agreements have been reached on a common external tariff covering virtually all products as well as the harmonisation of 79 per cent of excise rates. But it is not a total free trade area, since only a selected number of locally produced commodities can be traded between the two without payment of duties.

Economists reckon that, by themselves, the trade provisions of the union will only lead to a marginal increase in trade economies of scale for manufacturing concerns. By combining, they create those economies.

A particularly good example of this is the union's plan for a glass container plant. At the moment, both Sierra Leone and Liberia import their bottles. A modern bottle factory needs an output of about 25m bottles a year to be viable. This is more than the present imports of either country—but less than both combined.

To stimulate trade between the two countries, communications between them are being upgraded. The first step was in 1976 when, in an act symbolic of the union, a new bridge was opened over the Mano River.

Now preparations are being made for the construction of an all-weather road between Freetown and Monrovia, which will form part of the Trans-Africa Highway.

However, by far the most ambitious of the union's projects is that for a major hydro-electric and irrigation scheme in the Mano River basin.

A French company has just been awarded a contract to carry out a feasibility study, likely to be completed by the end of 1983.

In the early years, the Liberian iron ore mines would take about 80 per cent of the energy generated, with 20 per cent going to southern Sierra Leone.



Mining on the Yengema diamond field, Sierra Leone. Diamonds still dominate the country's list of exports.

In 1977-78 it produced 350,019 carats compared to 435,491 in 1976-77.

The small-scale mining consists of hundreds of individual miners licensed to dig on specific plots under the Government's Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme, which was introduced in 1958. Like DIMINCO, the Alluvial scheme saw a substantial drop in output in 1977-78, down to 389,300 from 471,400 carats. This was attributable to both diamond smuggling and a lack of adequate machines to strip away the deep overburden covering the diamonds.

Besides these licensed diggers, a third category of miner has long been at work in Sierra Leone and constitutes one of the industry's biggest headaches: the illicit diamond miner, who works illegally inside the DIMINCO lease areas, both under cover of darkness and in broad daylight.

The illicit miners often work in gangs, mine inefficiently, leaving pockets of gems behind in the earth—but, at the same time, they churn up the ground and make it unsuitable for large-scale operations by the company. Much of the illicit miners' production will be lost to the country—an appreciable amount being smuggled across the border into Liberia.

It is a measure of the extent of illicit mining and of smuggling of gems from the Licensed Alluvial Scheme, that a Government move last February, to reduce the lure of smuggling brought dramatic results and gave some indication of the amount of diamonds lost to the country over the years.

When the Government reduced the export duty payable on diamonds purchased under the Alluvial Scheme from 7½ per cent to 3½ per cent, the number of diamonds offered shot up immediately.

By September, purchases under the Alluvial Scheme during the year totalled 370,608 carats, compared to 258,286 for the same period of 1977—a staggering rise of 44 per cent. And they were worth Le 61m compared to Le 17.4m.

Despite this increase, production is steadily declining but Sierra Leone is not about to run out of diamonds. The small individual miner will long continue to dig in the large sweep of pock-marked countryside in the south-east of the country where diamonds are to be found.

However, a major question mark does hang over the large-scale operations of DIMINCO for there must come a point at which the cost of its operations outweigh the financial returns.

For some years now that moment has been 'thought imminent' only to be indefinitely postponed by the constantly rising price of diamonds.

DIMINCO is now considering a significant new departure which would again prolong the life of the company. It is conducting feasibility studies into the possible exploitation of two kimberlite pipes within the concession area.

Mining kimberlite involves much higher capital costs than DIMINCO's current mining of alluvial gravels, since the rock containing the diamonds has to be blasted, crushed and milled. Although some people in the industry are adopting a cautious approach to the likelihood of going ahead, the Sierra Leone Government seems certain to be keen on kimberlite production since both jobs and foreign exchange earnings will be involved.

## Development

Whatever the fate of the kimberlite pipes, Sierra Leone is firmly expected to begin production of rutile again in 1979 after a gap of eight years. The country has the world's biggest proven deposits of this substance (which is 98 per cent titanium oxide).

Attempts to mine rutile began in 1967, but the company involved—a subsidiary of Pittsburgh Plate Glass—went into receivership in 1971 after four years of desultory production. Its difficulties seem in part to have stemmed from a failure to realise that the Sierra Leone rutile deposits required a different extraction technology to that used in Australia, the world's principal producer up till now.

A new company, Sierra Rutile, (85 per cent owned by Bethlehem Steel, and 15 per cent owned by Nord Resources), was set up in 1972. Five years and more than \$40m of investment later it is due to begin production early next year.

The aim is to mine 60,000 tonnes of rutile in 1979, rising to about 100,000 tonnes thereafter. At the moment, however, the world market price of rutile is much lower than it was when

the investment began and there is concern that the addition of Sierra Leone's produce onto a market of just 400,000 tonnes could have a depressing effect on the price just when this seems to be improving. Tentative plans are also being drawn up for a major expansion of Sierra Leone's bauxite production which began in 1963, when the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (SIEROMCO)—a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alusuisse—set up operations at Mokanni, in the south of the country. Production there has risen to about 700,000 tonnes a year worth Le 7m last year.

Much larger deposits have been found in the north of the country around Port Loko. Alusuisse has just reached an agreement in principle with the Government under which it will conduct feasibility studies into mining these deposits (which are of significantly poorer grade than those in the south) and into the establishment locally of an alumina plant. However, the project is still far from assured. Even if the feasibility studies are positive, Alusuisse will still have to find international backers for the alumina plant, which will cost several hundred million dollars to set up.

Whether or not bauxite operations start around Port Loko (and, at the earliest, this would not be until 1983), there seems little hope of iron ore mining resuming in this area in the foreseeable future.

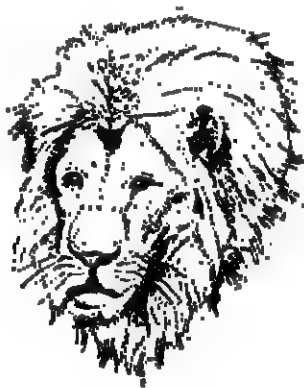
Delco's closure of its mine at Marappa, to the east of Port Loko, was a severe shock to Sierra Leone, even though rising production costs and falling ore grades had for years been cutting into the profits of this subsidiary of the British company, William Baird. In the end, Delco decided it was just not worthwhile spending money on the new capital equipment required to mine the lower grade of ore at a time of a world glut.

Since then, three or four foreign interests, including Bethlehem Steel, have taken a look at the Marappa deposits and at the much larger (but more remote) reserves in the Tonkolili district to the east.

The Government believes Marappa could be revived on a marginal profit basis, which would provide jobs and foreign exchange, but there are no takers—and there seem unlikely to be any as long as the world market depression persists.

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- Bunkers and freshwater available at all berths and anchorages
- Twenty-four-hour pilotage service for bunkering vessels
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# Experiment in co-operation

THE MANO River Union between Sierra Leone and Liberia—one of West Africa's most interesting experiments in inter-state economic co-operation—has just celebrated its fifth birthday.

The experiment came into existence in October, 1973, when President Stevens of Sierra Leone, and President Tolbert of Liberia, signed a declaration to work towards economic integration between their countries, with a customs union as the initial goal.

It was a far-sighted act: the Mano River Union is, in many respects, a precursor of the much larger Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which, in rudimentary form, came into being in 1975.

The union has gradually

moved during the past five years towards greater economic integration in three main areas—the harmonisation of trade agreements, the establishment of joint industries and plans to construct a major hydro-electricity project in the basin of the Mano River which forms the frontier between the two States.

In the field of trade, agreements have been reached on a common external tariff covering virtually all products as well as the harmonisation of 79 per cent of excise rates.

But it is not a total free trade area, since only a selected number of locally produced commodities can be traded between the two without payment of duties.

Economists reckon that, by themselves, the trade provisions

of the union will only lead to a marginal increase in trade economies of scale for manufacturing concerns. By combining, they create those economies.

A particularly good example of this is the union's plan for a glass container plant. At the moment, both Sierra Leone and Liberia import their bottles. A modern bottle factory needs an output of about 25m bottles a year to be viable. This is more than the present imports of either country—but less than both combined.

To stimulate trade between the two countries, communications between them are being upgraded. The first step was in 1976 when, in an act symbolic of the union, a new bridge was opened over the Mano River.

Now preparations are being made for the construction of an all-weather road between Freetown and Monrovia, which will form part of the Trans-Africa Highway.

However, by far the most ambitious of the union's projects is that for a major hydro-electric and irrigation scheme in the Mano River basin.

A French company has just been awarded a contract to carry out a feasibility study, likely to be completed by the end of 1983.

In the early years, the Liberian iron ore mines would take about 80 per cent of the energy generated, with 20 per cent going to southern Sierra Leone.

At the moment, however, the world market price of rutile is much lower than it was when

the investment began and there is concern that the addition of Sierra Leone's produce onto a market of just 400,000 tonnes could have a depressing effect on the price just when this seems to be improving. Tentative plans are also being drawn up for a major expansion of Sierra Leone's bauxite production which began in 1963, when the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (SIEROMCO)—a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alusuisse—set up operations at Mokanni, in the south of the country. Production there has risen to about 700,000 tonnes a year worth Le 7m last year.



## OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible]

### NOTES

† Do not include S premium, except for  $\frac{1}{2}$  and are in force unless otherwise indicated.  
 ‡ \$ shown in last column apply for all buying expenses. \* Offered prices include all expenses.  
 § Yield before taxes. ¶ Yield before taxes and Exclusion of Exclusion price. \*\* Exclusion price.  
 †† Periodic premium insurance plans. ‡ Single premium insurance. § Offered price includes  
 expenses except agent's commission. ¶ Offered price includes all expenses of buying including agent's  
 commission. \*\* Net of tax on realized capital gains unless indicated by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{8}$  where tax is  
 compounded. † Yield before Jersey tax. ‡ Ex-subdivision. §§ Only available to qualified buyers.







Count the words

[illegible][illegible]

		PRISES	
615		Conv. 5% 80,82	190
23		Alliance Cas.	68
23		Amort.	352
23	-2	Carroll (P. J.)	97
140		Chenault	48
140		Concrete Pump	130
252		Concrete (Wedge.)	130
252		Ins. Corp	160
252	-5	Irish Rocks	105
21		John T.M.C.	195
21		Undere	80

## OPTIONS

### Month Call Rates

5-16	1 C.I.	20	Tube Invest.
16	1 C.I.	6	Unlever
16	1 C.I.	6	Oil Drapery
11	1 C.I.	3	Victoria
11	1 C.I.	3	Woodworth
11	1 C.I.	3	Property
16	1 C.I.	3	Brit. Land
16	1 C.I.	3	Cap. Counties
16	1 C.I.	3	Int. Corp.
16	1 C.I.	3	Interpump
16	1 C.I.	3	Land Sec.
16	1 C.I.	3	Victory
16	1 C.I.	3	Paquet
16	1 C.I.	3	Smith Prop.
16	1 C.I.	3	Town & City
11	1 C.I.	3	Oil
11	1 C.I.	3	Brit. Petroleum
11	1 C.I.	3	Burnard Oil
11	1 C.I.	3	Charterhall
11	1 C.I.	3	Unlever
11	1 C.I.	3	Mines
11	1 C.I.	3	Champer Corp.
11	1 C.I.	3	Cos. Gold
11	1 C.I.	3	Res. T. Zinc



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## FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday December 11 1978


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Premier set to quell  
challenge from Left

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN is confidently preparing this week to quell a three-pronged challenge to his authority from Labour's left-wing.

The Government's pay sanctions policy will be the first target threatened by Tribune Group rebels in the Commons debate on Wednesday.

In the next nine days, the Prime Minister also faces a determined bid by Left-wing leaders to shape the Labour Party's next General Election manifesto.

This move, led by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, will be backed by efforts to free him—and any other Ministers on the party's National Executive—from the restraints imposed by the Cabinet's collective responsibility.

With the Conservatives now making political capital out of the Left's disruptive activity, Mr. Callaghan is expected vigorously to reassert his control.

His position has been reinforced by the enthusiastic party support for his line at the Brussels summit; and he is said to be ready for a head-on clash with Mr. Benn, if necessary.

## Under wraps

Anticipating the outcome, Lord Thorneycroft, Conservative Party chairman, said yesterday: "Mr. Callaghan will win, not because the kind of state proposed by Mr. Benn is contrary to his wishes or remote from his intentions, but because he judges he will get more votes by keeping these matters mainly under wraps until he has the chance of winning the election."

Mr. Francis Pym, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, sneaked yesterday that the Prime Minister was also likely to win the Commons vote on pay sanctions.

Mr. Callaghan has left no doubt that the issue is to be treated as one of confidence in the Government.

Ministers intend, however, to table a general motion of support for the Government's anti-inflation policy—and though the Tory amendment opposing sanctions may still attract Liberal and Nationalist votes, it is unlikely to lure any Labour rebels into the same anti-Government lobby.

The Left's energies are now expected to be concentrated behind Mr. Benn's attempts to press the National Executive's draft manifesto on the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Labour's home policy committee, of which Mr. Benn is chairman, resumes its discussion of the bulky document tomorrow.

The 62-page draft contains almost every policy decision made by the NEC and the party conference over the past few years and so far ignored by the Cabinet.

It includes a huge extension of public ownership with Government stakes in major industries such as construction and pharmaceuticals in addition to a State Bank and a reformed Bank of England.

The document calls for powers to secure planning agreements with the country's 100 largest companies; to freeze prices; and to direct investment into industry from pension and other funds.

It urges strict controls over imports threatening areas of public ownership, and imposes strict controls on multi-national companies, and in the long-term the public acquisition of agricultural land.

The draft calls for the creation of 1.5m new jobs; and increased

expenditure on pensions, unemployment benefits and the Health Service.

A wealth tax is proposed on all personal capital of more than £150,000 and a clampdown on expense allowances and "tax dodges for the rich."

The document also adopts a hostile attitude towards Britain's continued membership of the EEC.

## Diluted

A full meeting of the National Executive will consider the final draft on December 20, after an hour or two before putting the document before a joint meeting with the Cabinet.

Mr. Callaghan and his senior Ministers intend to mount immediate resistance to the bulk of the proposals. They will insist that many are diluted and others left out completely.

Mr. Dennis Skinner, one of the Left-wing members of the NEC, admitted yesterday that the Prime Minister's will would prevail. "I have fought in every election of the past 30 years, either as a candidate or an aide, on a watered-down document," he said. "I do not expect that the next one will be absolutely to my liking."

The Left had to fight for its measures if it wanted any in the manifesto, he said.

Mr. Callaghan, however, intends to crack down firmly on Mr. Benn's attempts to continue to fight from within the NEC while remaining a member of the Cabinet.

The Energy Secretary is expected to be sharply reminded again next week that if he is not prepared to accept Cabinet policy decisions, he will have to resign.

Singer unions  
seek £2m aid  
to save jobs

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS are to approach the Government early this week to ask for about £2m to save 500 of the 2,800 jobs threatened at Singer UK's manufacturing plant at Clydebank.

At talks over the weekend the company agreed to go beyond its previous offer to retain the jobs of 335 people making industrial sewing machines by adding a further 165 jobs to this figure.

Senior American executives of Singer also said they would increase the company's investment at Clydebank from £8m to between £10m and £12m, provided improvements in productivity were guaranteed by the workforce and the Government supplied the remaining capital.

Mr. Gavin Laird, Scottish executive member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday that he would be asking the Scottish Economic Planning Department to meet the company as soon as possible to consider an application for assistance under the 1972 Industry Act.

Singer estimated that between £2m and £4m could be needed from the Government to help pay for new buildings and equipment, and subsidise machines made at Clydebank for a temporary period so that they could match the price of competing models, particularly from Taiwan.

But Mr. Laird said unions had estimated that the amount needed

could be lower, perhaps £1.75m. "That is a relatively small amount of money for this number of jobs."

"We have changed the company's plan to discontinue the manufacture of industrial sewing machines at Clydebank by a businesslike approach. Not only have we saved 500 jobs, but we have provided a springboard from which future expansion can take place."

Mr. Laird added that the company had accepted the basic premise of the £50,000 report prepared by PA Management Consultants—which shop stewards commissioned—that there was still a market for industrial machines made at Clydebank.

"We had consultants negotiating alongside us and challenging the management's figures and they did this without extra charge. This was for me a unique experience and a pleasant one."

A document outlining the agreement and the necessity for improvements in productivity, more labour flexibility and a new wages structure is now being prepared by unions for distribution to the workforce. It will be discussed at factory meetings.

Mr. Ken Baker, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said: "Provided the labour force accepts the conditions specified by the management, we can look forward to a viable factory with a viable product."

Household insurance  
rates to go up

BY ERIC SHORT

TWO MORE leading insurance companies are to increase their rates for household contents policies in the New Year to meet rapidly rising costs and a third has warned that it intends to do so.

Phoenix Assurance is putting up its rate for standard indemnity cover, which has remained unchanged for 50 years, in a step which follows the trend set earlier this year by other major composite insurers such as Guardian Royal Exchange, Sun Alliance and General Accident. Eagle Star Insurance is to make it compulsory for all policyholders having contents insurance to index-link their contracts. Both changes will operate from January 1.

The third company, Legal and General, has stated that rates are to go up in the New Year but it has not decided on the size of the increase.

Phoenix's standard rate for indemnity cover is being raised from 25p per cent to 30p per cent, while its new-for-old policies rise from 30p per cent to 35p per cent. Under indemnity cover only the value, with an allowance for depreciation, is paid, but under new-for-old the full replacement cost of an item is paid.

## Suffering

In Central London, the highest rated area in the country, Phoenix will be charging 75p per cent for indemnity cover and 80p per cent for full replacement cover. Unlike some small insurers, which have ceased to write new business in these areas, Phoenix

is to continue to accept business in Central London, even though it is making severe losses there.

Like all other insurers, the company is suffering from substantial losses on its British householders account because of three main factors—rising theft rates, under-insurance and policyholders becoming more claim-conscious.

To combat under-insurance Phoenix undertook a campaign two years ago to get policyholders to insure for the correct value of the items covered. It persuaded 90 per cent of its policyholders to increase sums insured and to link the cover to various indices so that updating was automatic.

Starting next month Phoenix intends to impose an "average" clause on any contents policy which is not index-linked. This means that if, when a claim occurs, the policyholder is grossly under-insured, then the amount paid on that claim will be scaled down pro-rata to the actual amount of insurance cover.

This will affect nearly 200,000 policyholders and is expected to end losses on the householders account for all areas outside London, but further premium rate increases could occur for householders in the London area.

Eagle Star will not only make it compulsory for contents insurance to be index-linked but policyholders will also have their cover increased to bring it into line with present costs.

This move is aimed at making the sums insured more realistic. But there is no intention to increase basic premium rates.

Continued from Page 1

## Healey and EMS

tries, not just in Europe but elsewhere.

"We've done that very successfully for the last 20 months with a margin of fluctuation which, except for two months, was under 2 per cent, which is smaller than the margin in the system."

Mr. Healey said that the central problem of getting stability in Europe is the "disproportionate effect of changes in

the value of the dollar on the value of the Deutsche Mark and there is no chance of greater stability among European currencies unless this problem is faced head on."

The Chancellor said he hoped very much that this move would be one of the issues which heads of government, including Mr. James Callaghan, would tackle at their meeting at Gaudeloupe in early January.

## Weather

UK TODAY  
CLOUD and rain, clearing later. London, S.E., E. Anglia, Cent. S., E. England Midlands, Highlands, S. E. Scotland.  
Cloudy, rain at times, becoming

ing clearer. Max. 13C (55F). S. W. England, Channel Islands, Wales, Isle of Man, N. Ireland, Lakes, Argyll, Cent. Scotland, Scottish Islands.  
Rain at first, becoming clearer with some sunny intervals. Max. 11-14C (52-57F).  
Outlook: Unsettled and windy. Mostly mild.

## BUSINESS CENTRES

	Y-day	Today	Y-day	Today
Amsterdam	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Bombay	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Buenos Aires	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Calcutta	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Canton	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Cebu	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Hankow	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Hong Kong	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Kobe	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
London	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Lyons	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Manila	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Medan	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Shanghai	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Singapore	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Sourabaya	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Tientsin	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Yokohama	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30

## HOLIDAY RESORTS

	Y-day	Today	Y-day	Today
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
Algeria	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30

Skill shortages plan  
to be launched

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AN EXPERIMENTAL scheme aimed at trying to stem the growing shortages of skilled workers in five key areas of industry is to be launched soon by the Manpower Services Commission with the full backing of the Government.

It comes as the Department of Employment is prepared to admit for the first time during the present economic cycle that the problem of shortages of skilled workers is worsening.

Called the "skilled workers' mobility experiment," the new scheme will complement the existing but complicated employment transfer scheme's array of financial aid for workers earning less than about £5,000 a year who move home to find new jobs.

The experimental arrangements will provide an extra

lump sum payment of £500 and will apply to certain categories of skilled workers, whatever the size of their wage packets.

This, it is hoped, will be especially useful where highly-paid skilled workers are in short supply.

The five areas of industry chosen for the experiment are domestic electric appliances, construction equipment, pumps and valves, diesel engines, and food and drink machinery. The first four of these are among the handful of priority areas chosen for various sorts of special help under the Government's industrial strategy.

But there is some concern both in the Commission and the Government that such incentives for labour mobility provide only a partial answer.

A professionally managed and potentially profitable operation. John Elliott writes: The Kirby co-operative's request for further State aid will be made today after a mass meeting has reported on what the Government has done so far to help from Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry.

The co-operative is facing an immediate cash crisis, with creditors such as the British Steel Corporation demanding payment of debts. By lodging a fresh claim for State aid, however, the co-operative may be able to buy more time.

Breweries  
may swap  
more pubs

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

PROPOSALS to break up local monopolies of public houses owned by the big breweries in certain parts of the country will be discussed today at a meeting between brewers' and Mr. Roy Hattersley, Prices Secretary.

The proposals are believed to include an exchange of up to 1,000 of the 51,000 public houses currently owned by the big brewers.

The plan is for brewers which have a near-monopoly in particular areas to exchange some of their public houses with those of brewers in areas where their influence is less.

The existence of local monopolies of public houses was due to the rapid mergers and takeovers in the industry in the 1960s, which left the big breweries with a high concentration of public houses in certain areas. Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Norfolk, in particular, are areas with extensive local monopolies.

Details of the public houses to be exchanged have been worked out by the Brewers' Society at the request of Mr. Hattersley. The Department of Prices is concerned that local monopolies may restrict the choice of beers and affect standards of competition between public houses.

While the brewers reject this argument, they have agreed to co-operate with the Department. If the exchanges are agreed in principle at today's meeting, they are likely to take some years to implement. A swap of about 500 public houses which was agreed last year took more than two years to negotiate, and has caused considerable unrest among pub managers and trade unions.

## THE LEX COLUMN

Pension fund  
ostriches

The pension funds have their heads in the sand. They have developed in recent years into a major economic force, and are currently growing at over £3bn a year. Yet many of them persist in behaving as though their affairs were of interest to no-one but themselves—a fallacy exposed last week when the TUC repeated its demand for the partial disclosure of their funds.

Their disclosure obligations are minimal, and are all directed at the beneficiary rather than the general public. Members of occupational pension schemes have legal rights to information about their pension benefits. But most— and sometimes all—of what they get is supplied on a once-for-all basis when they join the scheme. It is rare for members to be given the kind of detailed and regular information about a fund's investment which would make it possible to monitor the behaviour of fund managers.

Even where performance can be measured—and is found wanting—there is not much anyone can do about it. The only formal redress for financial maladministration is through the Chancery Division of the High Court, which is expensive, time-consuming—and seldom used.

## Private—keep out

Meanwhile the general public is not seen to have any interest in the performance of the funds, either by the National Association of Pension Funds or by the Government. Its White Paper on occupational pension schemes, deemed to be too contentious for the present session of Parliament, restricted itself to the role of members in the schemes.

The funds argue that it is not compulsory to set up a scheme in the first place, and that the arrangement is a private affair between employer and employee. So it would be illogical to impose external controls on public disclosure. They say

that all the funds act independently and in competition with each other, and that a flood of new information about investment portfolios from something like 85,000 occupational pension schemes would be of no value to anyone except sensation-seeking journalists.

## Information gap

But there are serious shortcomings in the present position. Apart from anything else, no one can be sure what the numbers actually add up to so long as there is no central register of self-administered schemes. The Central Statistical Office has said that this is necessary to improve the quality of information required for the national accounts. Of course the pension funds are independent, but their investment decisions in aggregate are of crucial importance and public interest.

A more fundamental argument for increased disclosure is the discipline that it would impose on individual funds. Quite simply, people are less inclined to cut corners if they know that each year they are going to be the subject of an independent, publicly available report.

The funds' answer to this tends to be that their business has so far been remarkably free from scandals. But then they have been operating in an especially favourable environment, and the fact that they have generally been able to meet their obligations in the past does not mean that this will always be the case. The rapid expansion of schemes and benefits in recent years has provided a burgeoning cash flow better than this. Some of the more shining examples come from the nationalised industry close to maturity, this will change. Pension funds sit under the umbrella of that if the pension funds do not trust law—which was not made to make them more accountable and there is no reason to assume one else is going to do it for that their managers are wiser than the TUC, which believed that accountability is a matter of having a union hand on the reins, it is waiting in the wings.

evidence to the Wilson Committee, suggested that consideration might be given to the idea of a code of best business practice for pension funds, which might eventually be developed into legislation. The National Association of Pension Funds took serious objection to this thought, and indeed there was a touch of irony about a champion of self-regulation proposing statutory controls for someone else. All the same, it is hard to fault the Stock Exchange's argument that a high degree of disclosure is especially necessary, which savers have no choice as to how or by whom their funds are managed. And it would make sense for the National Association of Pension Funds to give a lead in this area.

Appropriate information would include a breakdown of the portfolio into equities, property, gilts, overseas investments, and other details of major equity holdings and property investments, a cash flow statement showing where new money came from and where it was invested, and full details of any transaction involving interested parties. This is just a small fraction of what is already required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act in the U.S.

TUC ambitions

However to such initiative is planned by the NAPP, which is happy with the guidelines published by the CBI on disclosure. These are concerned only with the beneficiaries. To their credit, a number of its members are already doing a lot better than this. Some of the more shining examples come from the nationalised industry close to maturity, this will change. Pension funds sit under the umbrella of that if the pension funds do not trust law—which was not made to make them more accountable and there is no reason to assume one else is going to do it for that their managers are wiser than the TUC, which believed that accountability is a matter of having a union hand on the reins, it is waiting in the wings.

Highland  
Distilleries

THE FAMOUS GROUSE

Continuing success of  
"The Famous Grouse"  
leads to another good year

The Annual General Meeting was held in Glasgow on 8th December 1978. The Chairman, Mr. J. A. R. Macphail reported:

- \* Turnover up 41% to £42,617,000
- \* Profit before tax up 21.5% to £4,076,000
- \* One for one bonus issue

## PROSPECTS

Despite prospects for the industry being clouded by the continuing of parallel exports and by the persistent discrimination by various Governments, Mr. Macphail said that he considered that prospects for the Company, subject to Government interference, remained good with the Famous Grouse brand showing every sign of continued growth.

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE



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